erica

SAKURAZAWA™

the rules of love

EXPLICIT CONTENT
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

rules of love

BY ERICA SAKURAZAWA

TOKYOPOP®
LOS ANGELES • TOKYO • LONDON

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Manga
Romance
USA $9.99

to experience true love, sometimes you have to break the rules.

Taku is a total player and a sometimes-gigolo who has a little black book a mile thick. But when he meets a shy girl named Chizu who falls head over heels for him, he tries his hardest to change his playboy ways. **The Rules of Love** depicts Taku and Chizu's bittersweet summer of love.

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第1章

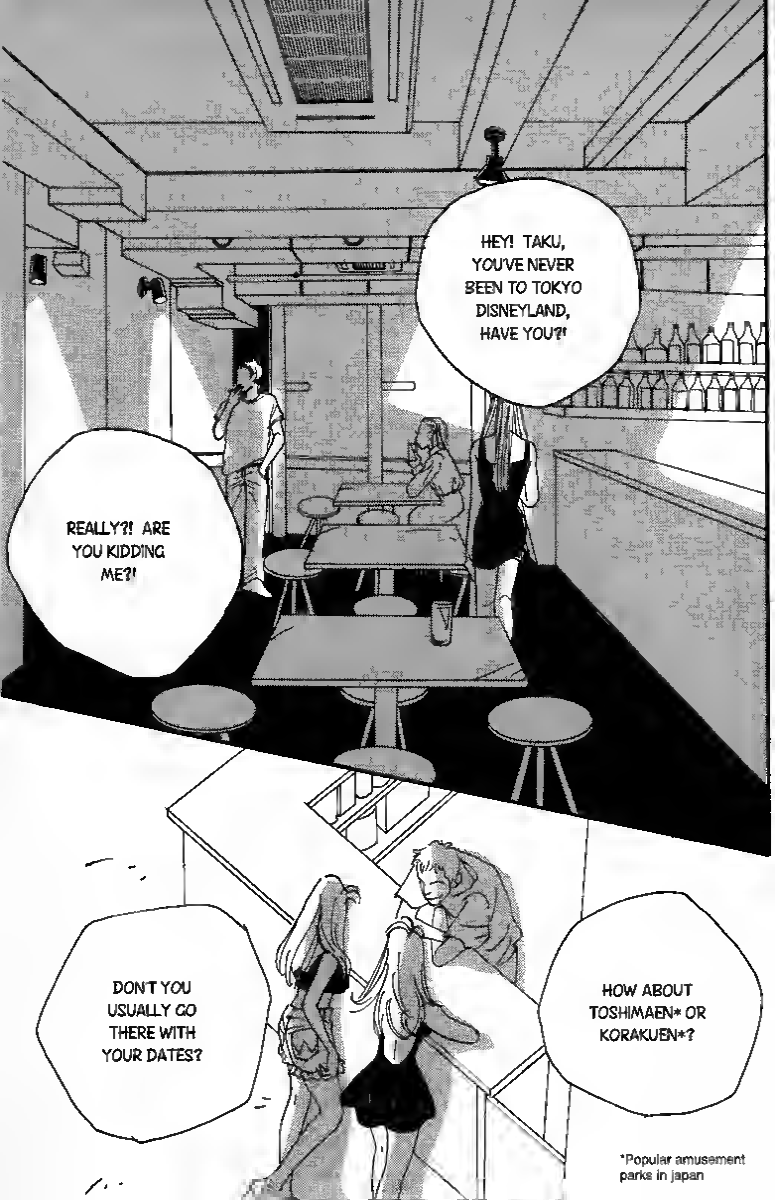
rules of love

chapter 1

EVEN NOW, I SOMETIMES
THINK ABOUT
THAT SUMMER.

I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF
FROM FALLING IN LOVE
WITH HIM...

AT THAT TIME,
HE WAS ALL THAT
I COULD THINK ABOUT...


HEY! TAKU, YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO TOKYO DISNEYLAND, HAVE YOU?!
REALLY?! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
DON'T YOU USUALLY GO THERE WITH YOUR DATES?
HOW ABOUT TOSHIMAEN* OR KORAKUEN*?
*Popular amusement parks in japan

REALLY?
I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A "REAL" DATE.
PHONE FOR YOU!
LET'S GET TOGETHER NEXT TIME. PROMISE ME?
TAKUSHI!

TAKU... COME OVER RIGHT NOW... HICCUP.
ヒック
HICCUP. TAKU... HICCUP.
ヒック
MAYUMI?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO... I JUST CUT MY WRIST A LITTLE BIT, BUT IT WON'T STOP BLEEDING... HICCUP.
ヒック
I'M SCARED... HICCUP.
ヒック

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, TAKU. HICCUP.
YOUR FAULT... HICCUP.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME...

THIS IS THE WORST SUMMER EVER.
TOO HOT...
IT'S TOO HOT, SHIGE...
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE AIR CONDITIONING IN THIS PLACE?
SHUT UP. STOP COMPLAINING.

DAMMIT... WHY DID I GET KICKED OUT OF MY APARTMENT?
AREN'T YOU HOT?
I SAID SHUT UP! IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT HERE, YOU CAN MOVE OUT ANYTIME.
PLUS, YOU DIDN'T PAY RENT FOR THREE MONTHS, DID YOU? IF I WERE A LANDLORD, I'D KICK YOU OUT, TOO.
MAYUMI DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT HERSELF AT MY PLACE, DID SHE? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOU DESERVED IT! IT WAS A MISTAKE TO GO AFTER THAT HYSTERICAL GIRL IN THE FIRST PLACE.

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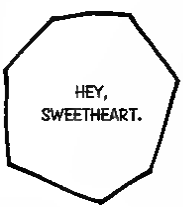
ミーン
ミーン
ミーン
ミーン
BULLSHIT.

CAN I COME TO YOUR PLACE?

TAKU? WHAT? IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

HELLO. THIS IS TANIZAKI SPEAKING.


HEY, SWEETHEART.

NO, THANKS.

!!
CLICK

WELL... I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF WORK. I'M REALLY BUSY RIGHT NOW.
I'LL BRING SOME FOOD. HOW ABOUT A CAKE? HOW MANY ASSISTANTS DO YOU HAVE?

HELLO...
HELLO. REIKO? ITS TAKU.
DAMMIT. THIS ONE'S HYSTERICAL, TOO.
YEAH, I KNOW YOU NEED ME.
TAKU!! GREAT! GET OVER HERE!
DID YOU MISS ME REALLY BAD?

PATRICIA?
I NEED TO TAKE HER TO THE ANIMAL HOSPITAL. BUT, SHE DOESN'T HAVE A PET CARRIER.
PATRICIA IS FIRST.
WAIT A SECOND.
SHE DOESN'T LIKE TO GET STUCK IN A CAGE.
ソソソ
WHAT?! ME?!
RIGHT! PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!
CAN YOU HOLD HER ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL, TAKU?

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ミーン
ミーン
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BLUE SKIES MAKE ME SICK.
YUCK. I HATE THIS. THE AIR IS SO WARM.
I HATE THE SUMMER.
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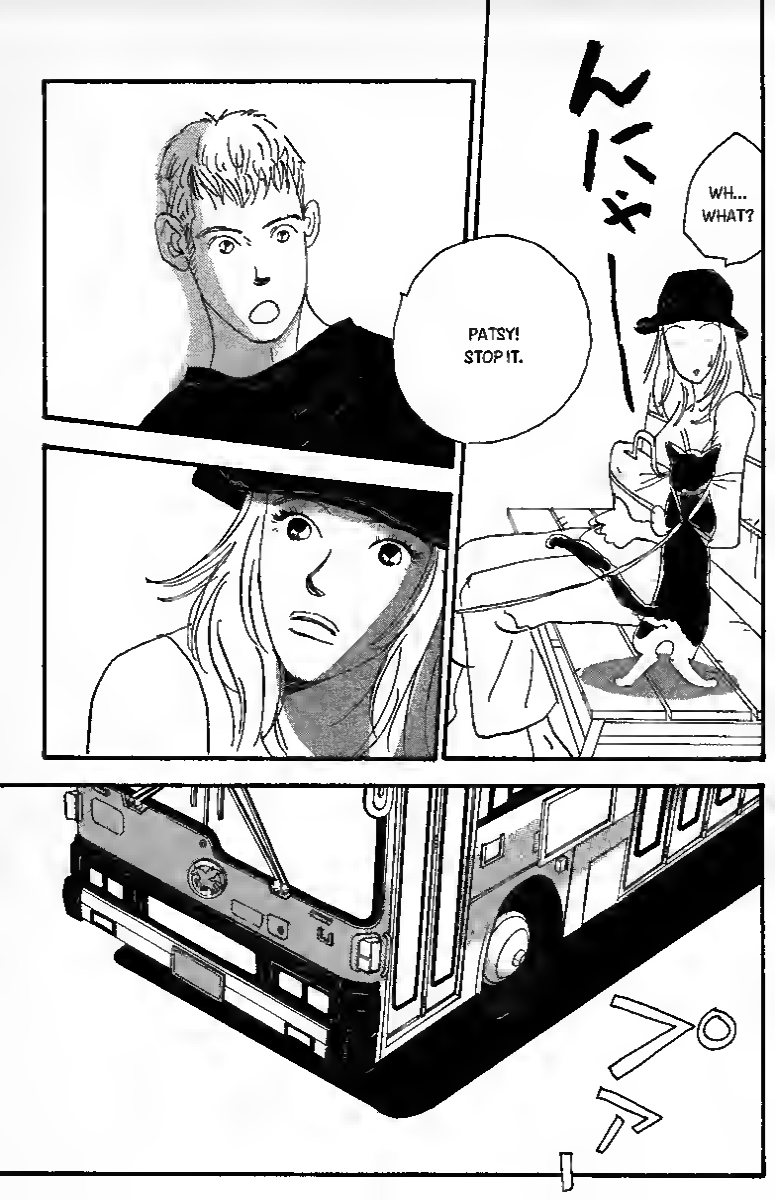
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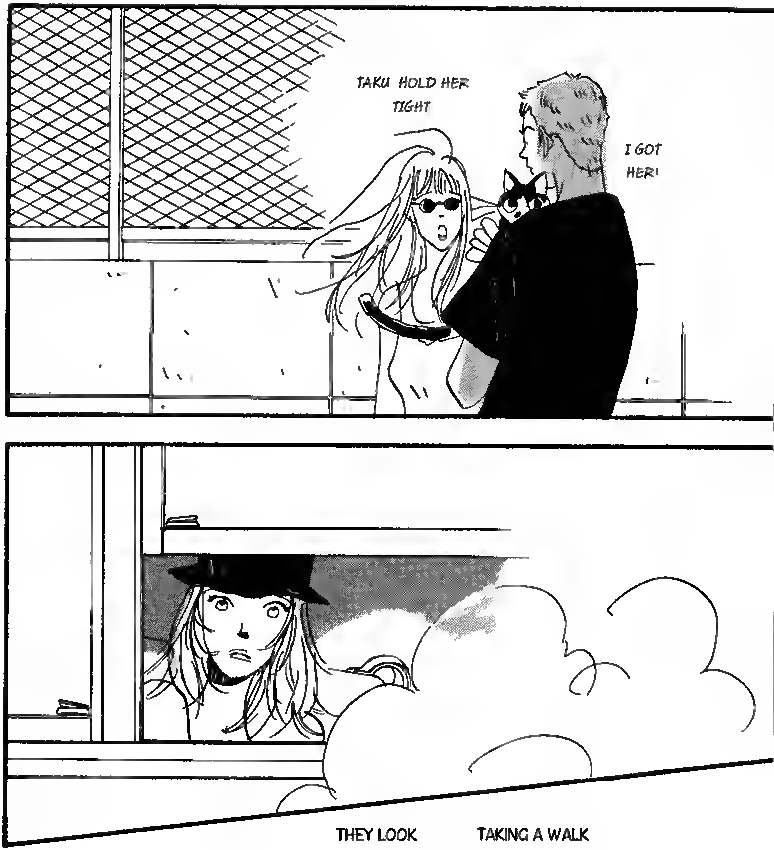
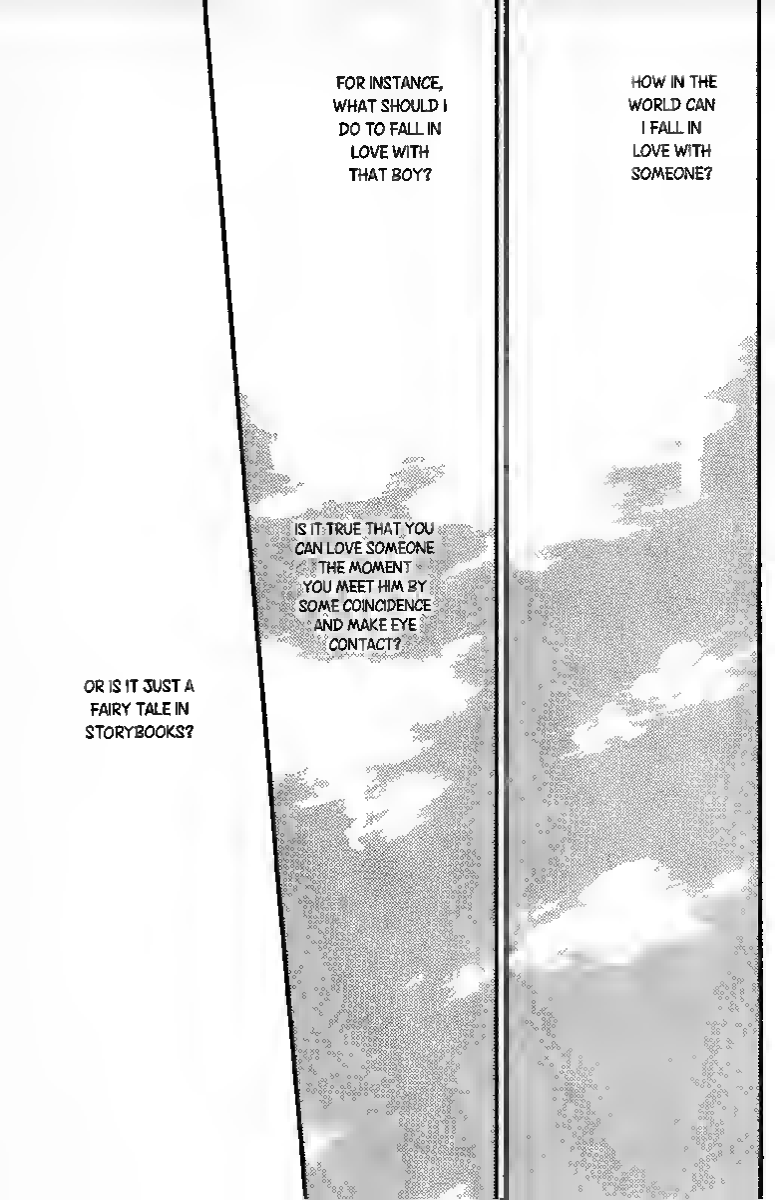
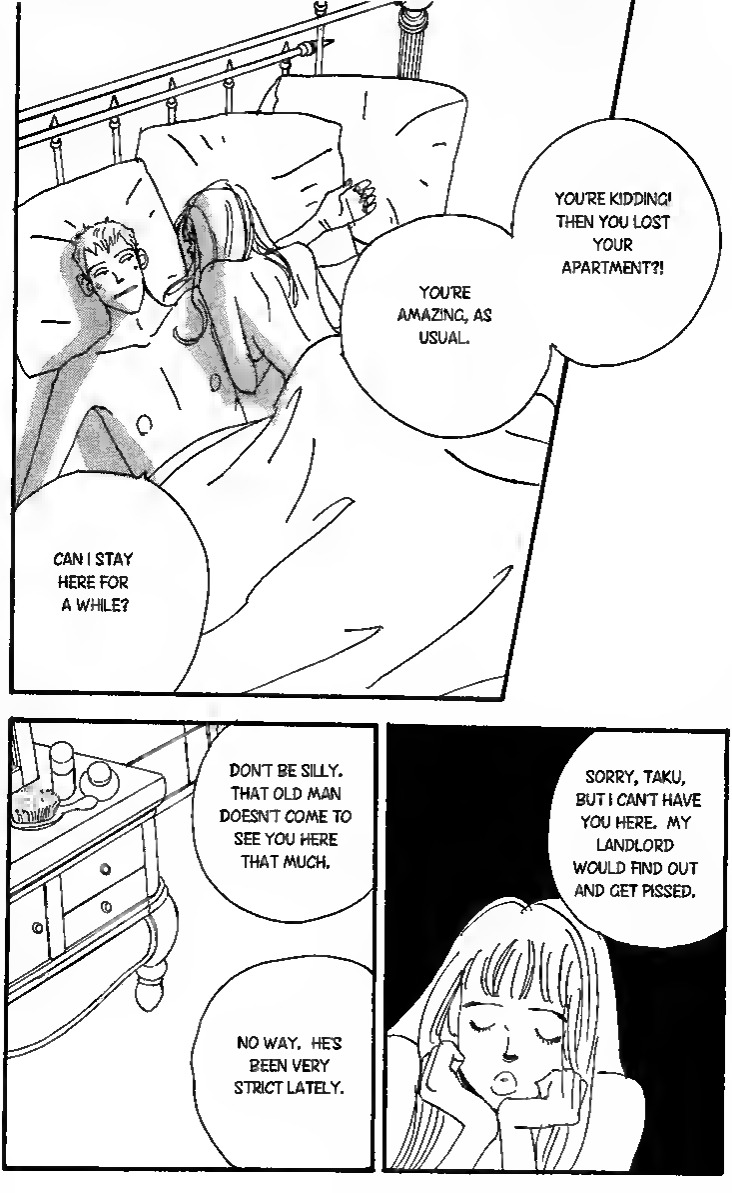
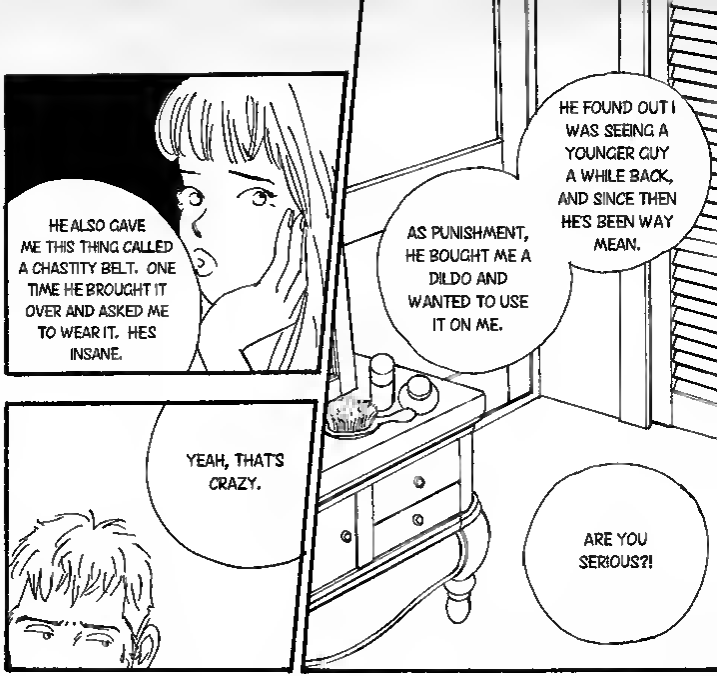
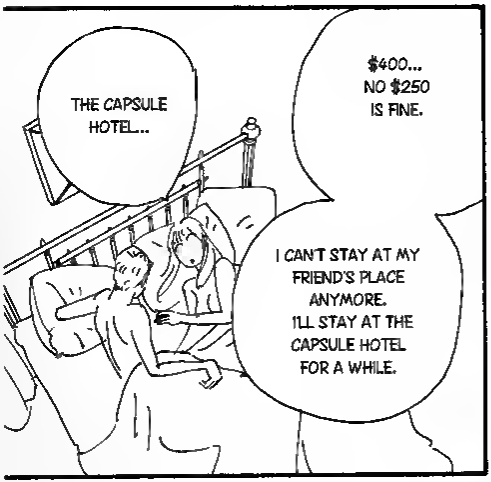
WH... WHAT?
PATSY! STOP IT.
ブロロロロ


TAKU HOLD HER TIGHT
I GOT HER!
THEY LOOK SO CUTE TOGETHER.
TAKING A WALK WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND AND A CAT...


FOR INSTANCE, WHAT SHOULD I DO TO FALL IN LOVE WITH THAT BOY?
HOW IN THE WORLD CAN I FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE?
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU CAN LOVE SOMEONE THE MOMENT YOU MEET HIM BY SOME COINCIDENCE AND MAKE EYE CONTACT?
OR IS IT JUST A FAIRY TALE IN STORYBOOKS?


CAN I STAY HERE FOR A WHILE?
YOU'RE AMAZING, AS USUAL.
YOU'RE KIDDING! THEN YOU LOST YOUR APARTMENT?!
DON'T BE SILLY. THAT OLD MAN DOESN'T COME TO SEE YOU HERE THAT MUCH.
NO WAY. HE'S BEEN VERY STRICT LATELY.
SORRY, TAKU, BUT I CAN'T HAVE YOU HERE. MY LANDLORD WOULD FIND OUT AND GET PISSED.


HE ALSO GAVE ME THIS THING CALLED A CHASTITY BELT. ONE TIME HE BROUGHT IT OVER AND ASKED ME TO WEAR IT. HES INSANE.
HE FOUND OUT I WAS SEEING A YOUNGER GUY A WHILE BACK, AND SINCE THEN HE'S BEEN WAY MEAN.
AS PUNISHMENT, HE BOUGHT ME A DILDO AND WANTED TO USE IT ON ME.
YEAH, THAT'S CRAZY.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!


THE CAPSULE HOTEL...
$400... NO $250 IS FINE.
I CAN'T STAY AT MY FRIEND'S PLACE ANYMORE. I'LL STAY AT THE CAPSULE HOTEL FOR A WHILE.

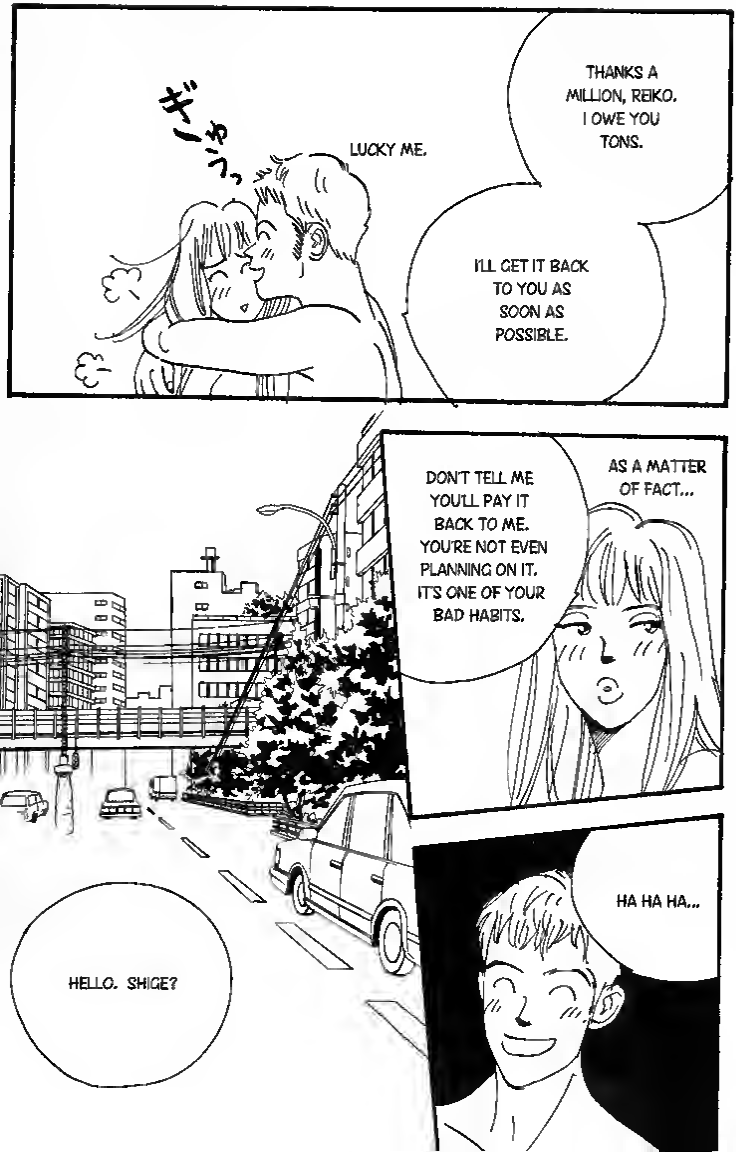
WELL, WHAT ABOUT MONEY? CAN I BORROW SOME?
HOW MUCH?

IT'S PATRICIA.
PLEASE, REIKO.
I TOOK PATSY TO THE HOSPITAL, DIDN'T I?
PLEASE? OKAY?
I'LL PAY YOU BACK SOON.
UM...
OKAY...
BUT YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME A LOT OF PLEASURE TODAY.

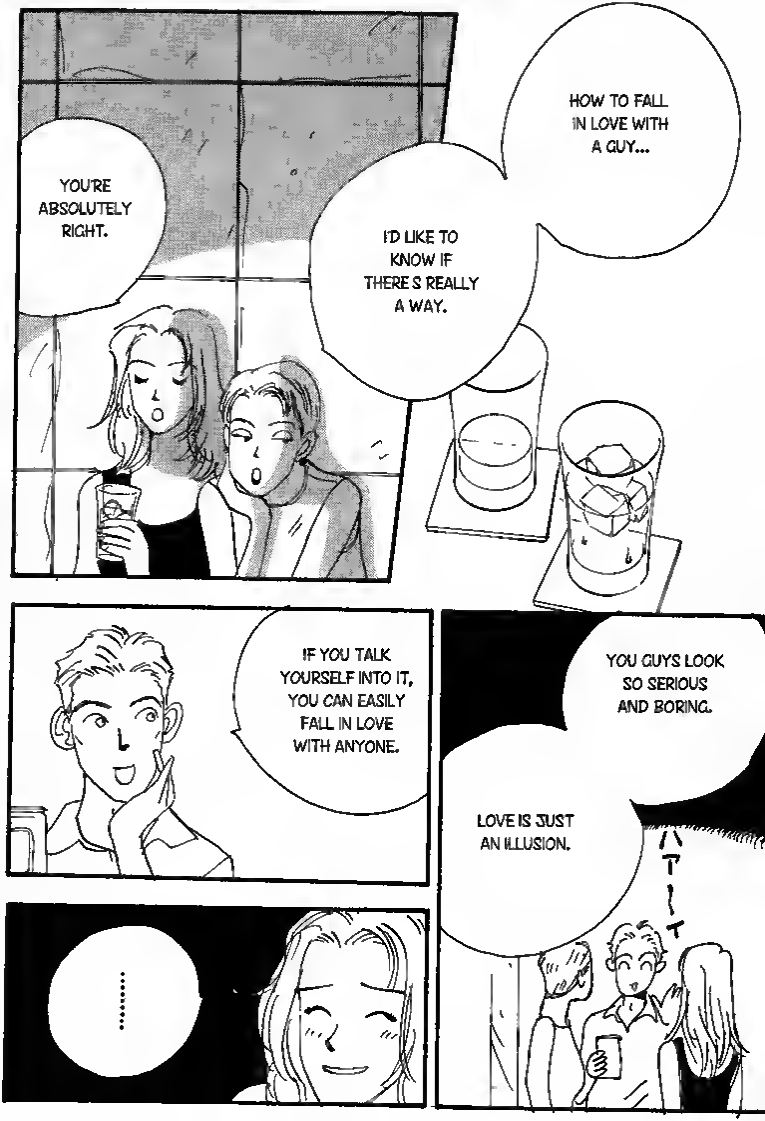
WHO'S BETTER...YOUR OLD MAN OR ME?
MMN.
AH.
AH.
FEELS GOOD... TAKU...
WHICH ONE?
AH.
OH MY GOD...

OH MY GOD.
AH.
AH.
AH.
AAH!
I'M COMING!
NO.

HUH?
OPEN UP THAT ENVELOPE OVER THERE.
TAKU.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU TAKE IT. THE OLD MAN GAVE IT TO ME.
HE'LL GIVE ME MORE IF I ASK.
YOU CAN TAKE IT. THERE'S $850 INSIDE.
WHAT?!


ギュッ
LUCKY ME.
THANKS A MILLION, REIKO. I OWE YOU TONS.
I'LL GET IT BACK TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
AS A MATTER OF FACT...
DON'T TELL ME YOU'LL PAY IT BACK TO ME. YOU'RE NOT EVEN PLANNING ON IT. IT'S ONE OF YOUR BAD HABITS.
HA HA HA...
HELLO. SHIGE?

LET'S GO OUT TONIGHT! I HAVE SOME CASH. IT'S ON ME.
WHAT? OF COURSE I'LL GIVE YOU THE MONEY I OWE YOU.


HOW TO FALL IN LOVE WITH A GUY...
I'D LIKE TO KNOW IF THERE'S REALLY A WAY.
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
IF YOU TALK YOURSELF INTO IT, YOU CAN EASILY FALL IN LOVE WITH ANYONE.
YOU GUYS LOOK SO SERIOUS AND BORING.
LOVE IS JUST AN ILLUSION.
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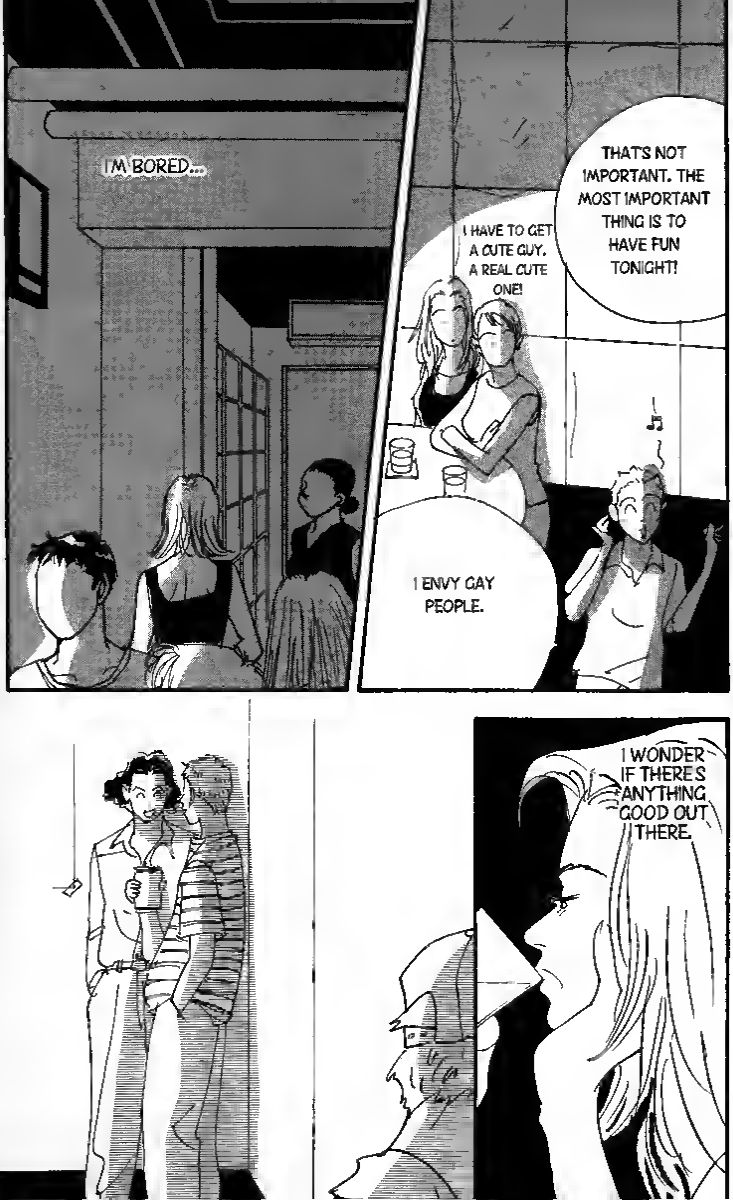
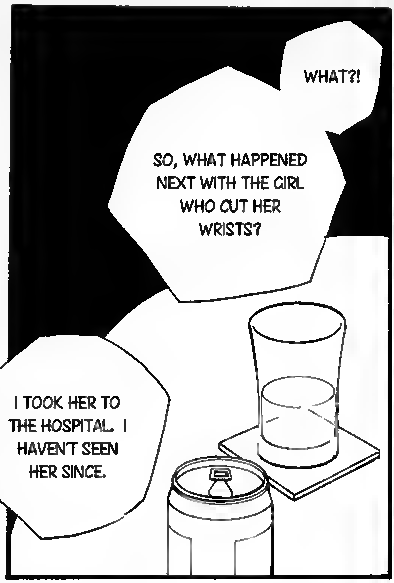
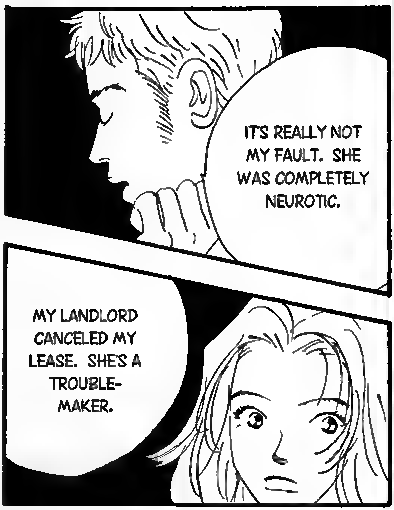

I'M BORED...
I HAVE TO GET A CUTE GUY. A REAL CUTE ONE!
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO HAVE FUN TONIGHT!
I ENVY GAY PEOPLE.
I WONDER IF THERE'S ANYTHING GOOD OUT THERE.

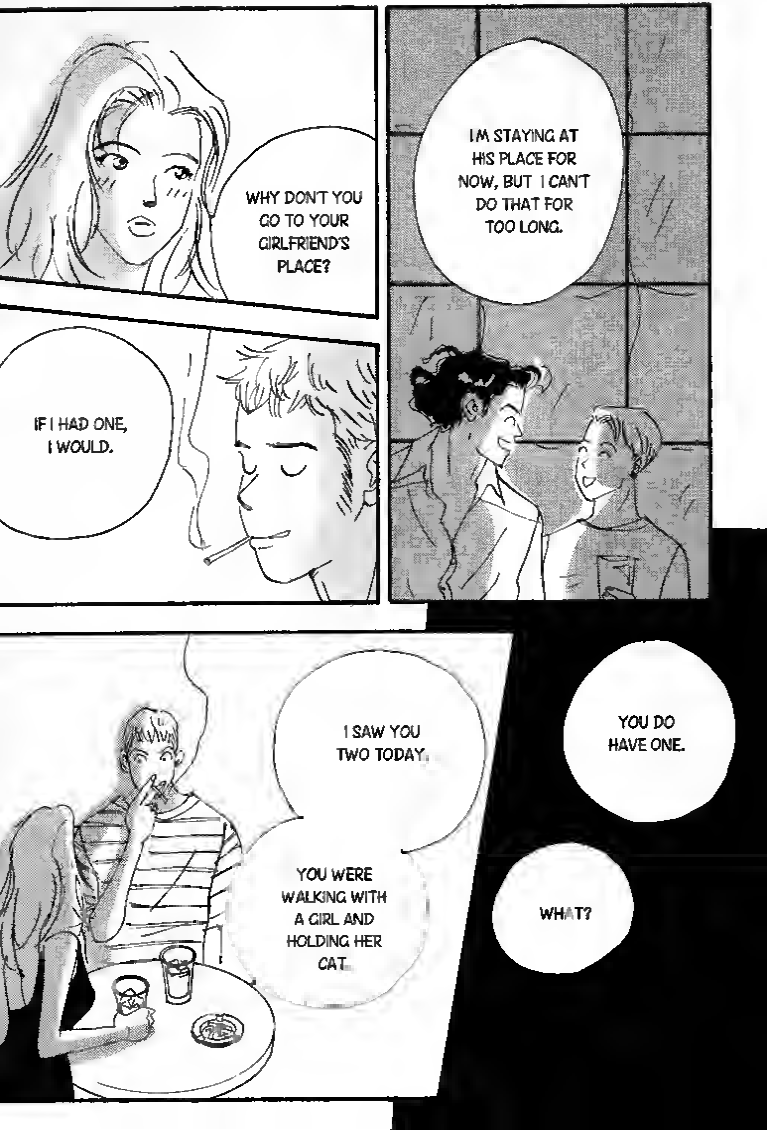
THAT GUY...
I SAW HIM THIS AFTERNOON.
HUH? WHICH ONE?
HEY, HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT GIRL, TAKU?
THE GIRL ON THE RIGHT IS PRETTY DECENT. THE LEFT ONE ISN'T TOO BAD, EITHER.
SHE'S BEEN LOOKING AT US FOR A LONG TIME.

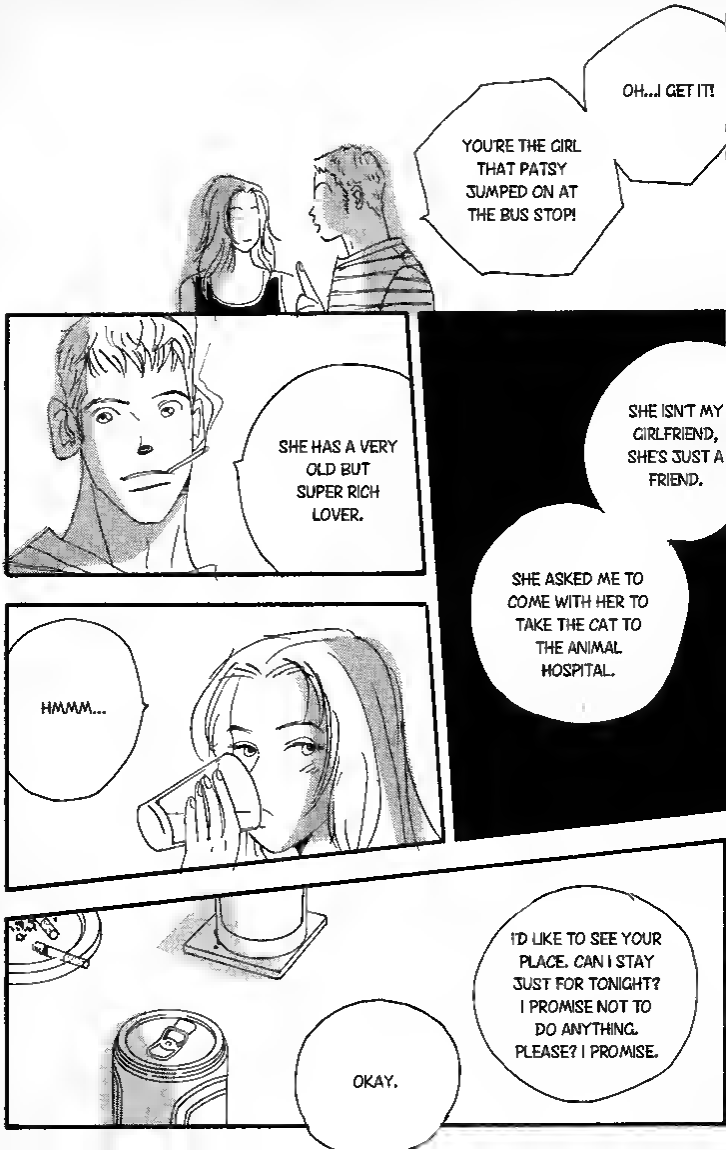
BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.
I HAVE TO FIND A PLACE TO SLEEP TONIGHT.
NO WAY. SHE ISN'T MY TYPE.
I LIKE A MORE NAUGHTY LOOK.
IF I CAN'T FIND ANYONE, I GOTTA CRASH AT YOUR PLACE TONIGHT AGAIN, SHIGE.

WHAT, ME TALK TO HIM?! WHAT DO I SAY?! HOW?!
I DON'T KNOW. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HELLO OR SOMETHING. ANYTHING'S OKAY... I THINK.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T KNOW?! IT'S EASY. JUST TALK TO HIM. IF YOU LIKE HIM, DO IT.
'HELLO'?! IS 'HELLO' OKAY?! WHAT ABOUT AFTER 'HELLO'?
HELLO.


WHAT?!
SO, WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WITH THE GIRL WHO CUT HER WRISTS?
I TOOK HER TO THE HOSPITAL. I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE.


IT'S REALLY NOT MY FAULT. SHE WAS COMPLETELY NEUROTIC.
MY LANDLORD CANCELED MY LEASE. SHE'S A TROUBLE-MAKER.


WHY DON'T YOU GO TO YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S PLACE?
IF I HAD ONE, I WOULD.
I'M STAYING AT HIS PLACE FOR NOW, BUT I CAN'T DO THAT FOR TOO LONG.
I SAW YOU TWO TODAY.
YOU WERE WALKING WITH A GIRL AND HOLDING HER CAT.
WHAT?
YOU DO HAVE ONE.


OH...I GET IT!
YOU'RE THE GIRL THAT PATSY JUMPED ON AT THE BUS STOP!
SHE HAS A VERY OLD BUT SUPER RICH LOVER.
SHE ISN'T MY GIRLFRIEND, SHE'S JUST A FRIEND.
SHE ASKED ME TO COME WITH HER TO TAKE THE CAT TO THE ANIMAL HOSPITAL.
HMMM...
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR PLACE. CAN I STAY JUST FOR TONIGHT? I PROMISE NOT TO DO ANYTHING. PLEASE? I PROMISE.
OKAY.

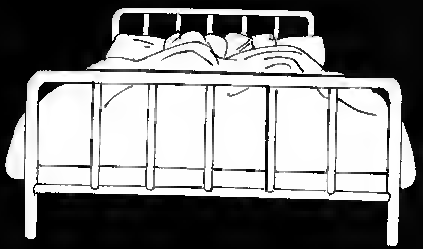
WHAT?!
REALLY?!

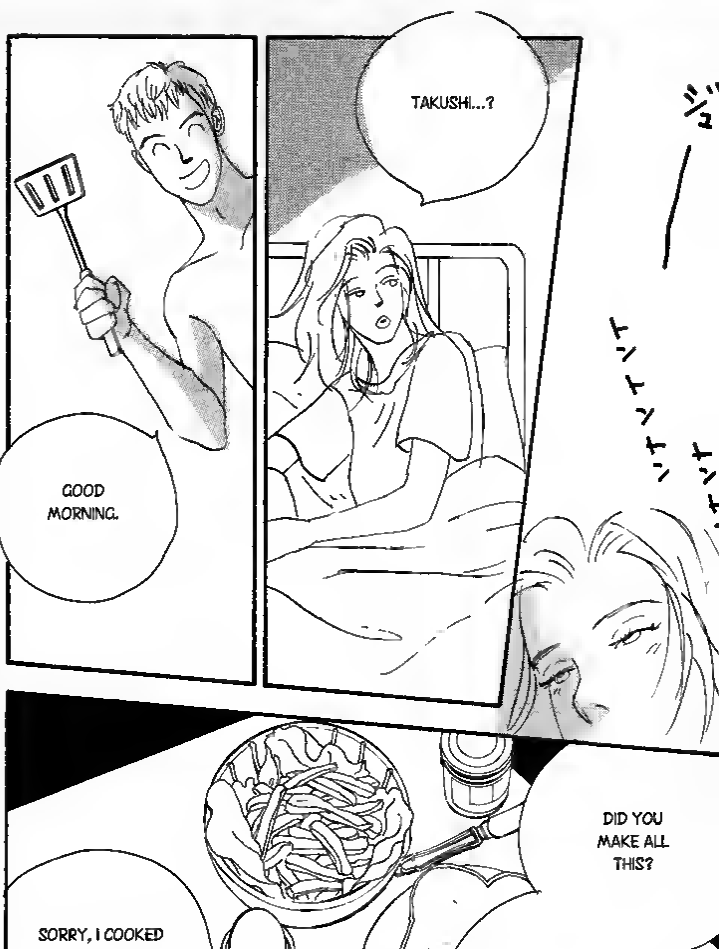
HE HASN'T TRIED TO DO ANYTHING WITH ME... HE'S ACTUALLY SLEEPING...

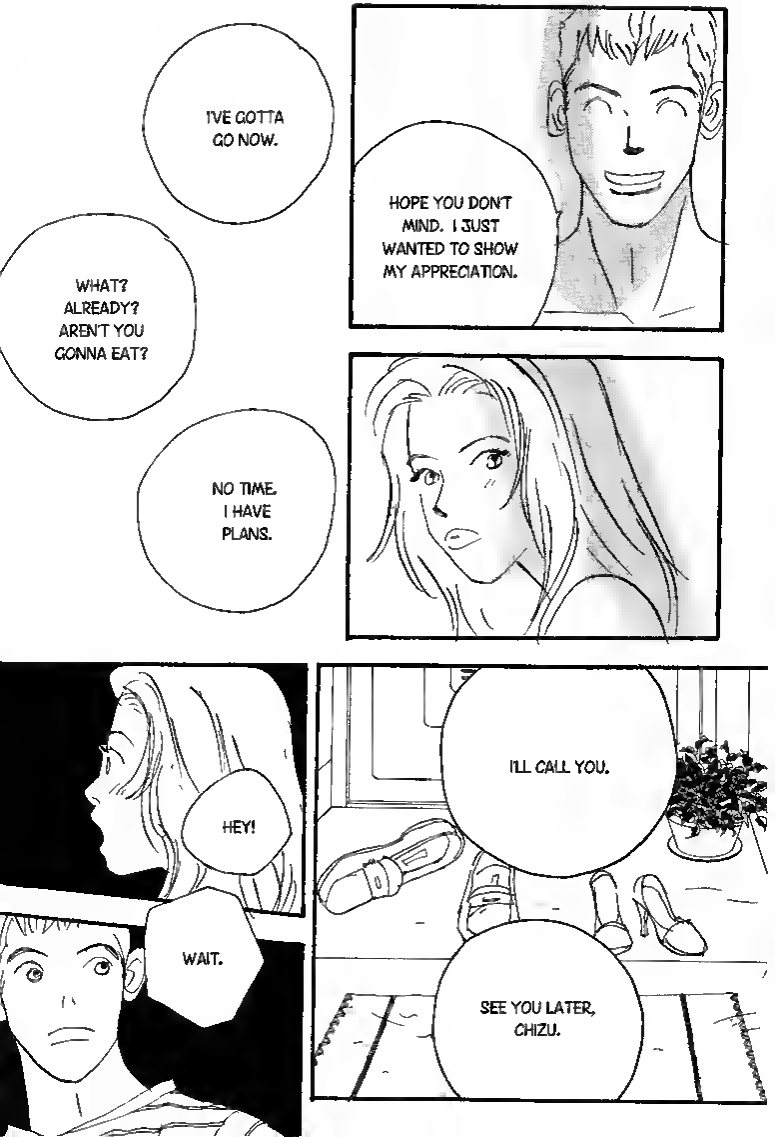
LIFE ISN'T SO BAD.

ALL MORNING, I'VE BEEN LYING NEXT TO THE GUY I THOUGHT I KINDA WANTED TO FALL IN LOVE WITH.

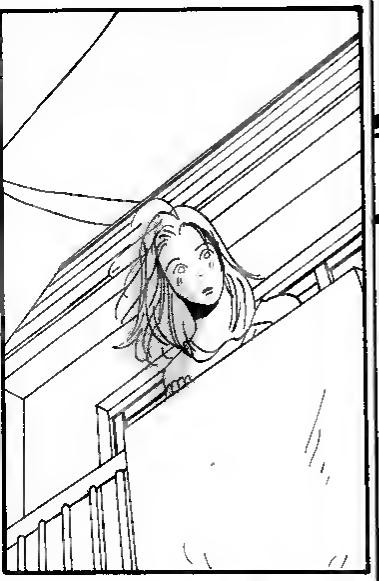
WELL, IT'S OKAY...




TAKUSHI...?
GOOD MORNING.
DID YOU MAKE ALL THIS?
SORRY, I COOKED YOUR FOOD WITHOUT ASKING YOU FIRST.
AMAZING...

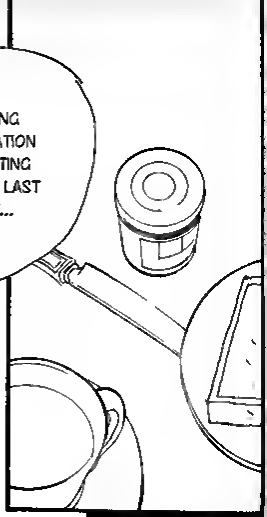

I'VE GOTTA GO NOW.
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND. I JUST WANTED TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION.
WHAT? ALREADY? AREN'T YOU GONNA EAT?
NO TIME. I HAVE PLANS.
HEY!
WAIT.
I'LL CALL YOU.
SEE YOU LATER, CHIZU.

MY APARTMENT IS SMALL...
...BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO GO, YOU CAN STAY HERE.
DON'T SAY THAT UNLESS YOU MEAN IT. OTHERWISE, I'LL TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY...
...CAUSE I'M VERY BOLD LIKE THAT.



WHAT WAS I THINKING?

I JUST MET HIM YESTERDAY.



THIS ISN'T THE BEGINNING OF A LOVE AFFAIR OR ANYTHING.

HOW CAN I ACTUALLY START LOVING SOMEONE?
WELL, HOW...

CHIZU NAKADA
3716-××××
...AND SHE'S COOL, TOO.
SHE'S GOOD LOOKING...

ANYWAY, I'VE HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH HYSTERICAL GIRLFRIENDS.
SO...WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

WOW!
AMAZING! THREE TIMES ALREADY!!
HEY, THIS MUST BE YOUR LUCKY DAY.
YEP. I ONLY SPENT FOUR BUCKS AND I WON THIS MUCH ALREADY.
THAT TYPE OF MACHINE HITS AT LEAST TEN TIMES.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?! AWESOME!

HAS MY LUCK RETURNED?
THIS SUMMER IS GOING TO BE INCREDIBLE.

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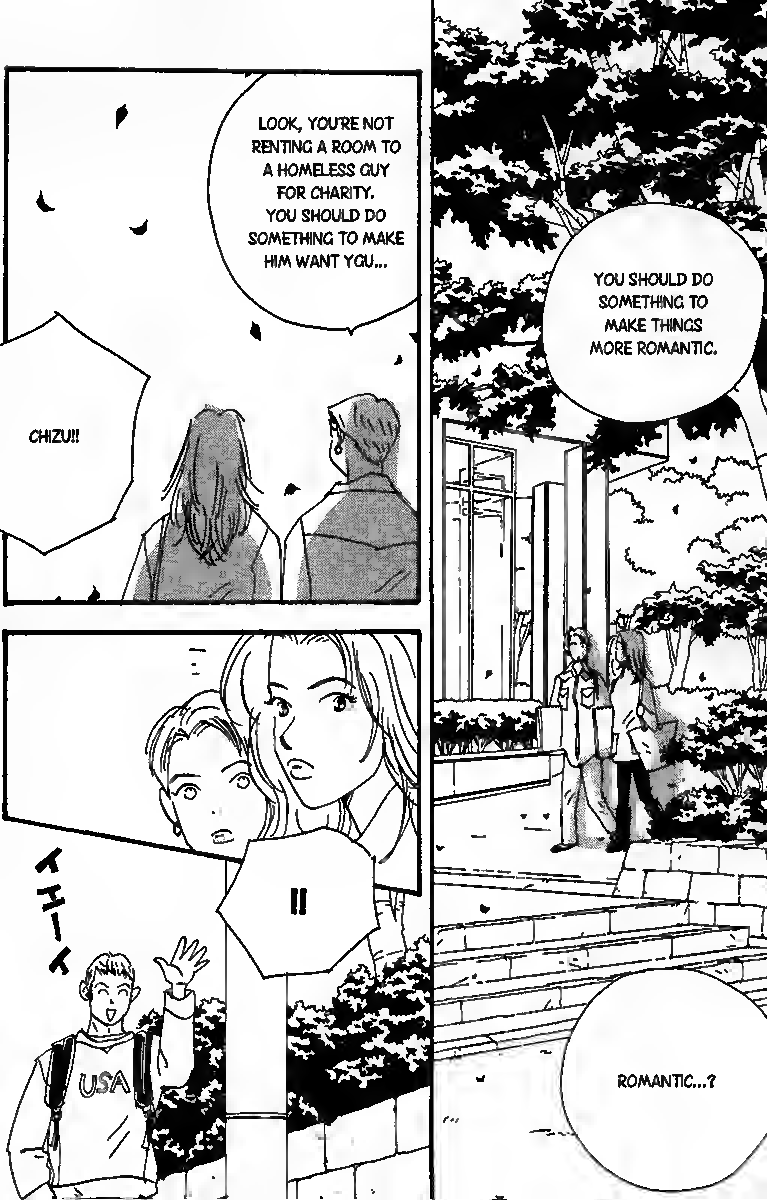
第2章

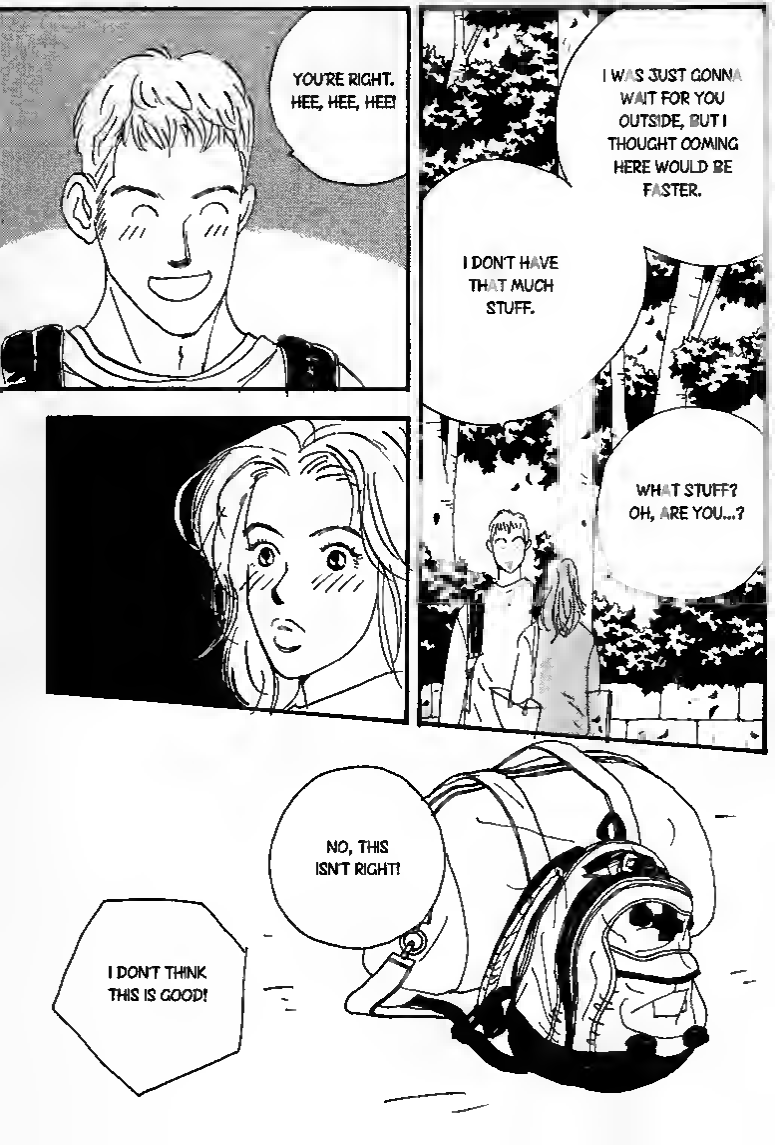
rules of love

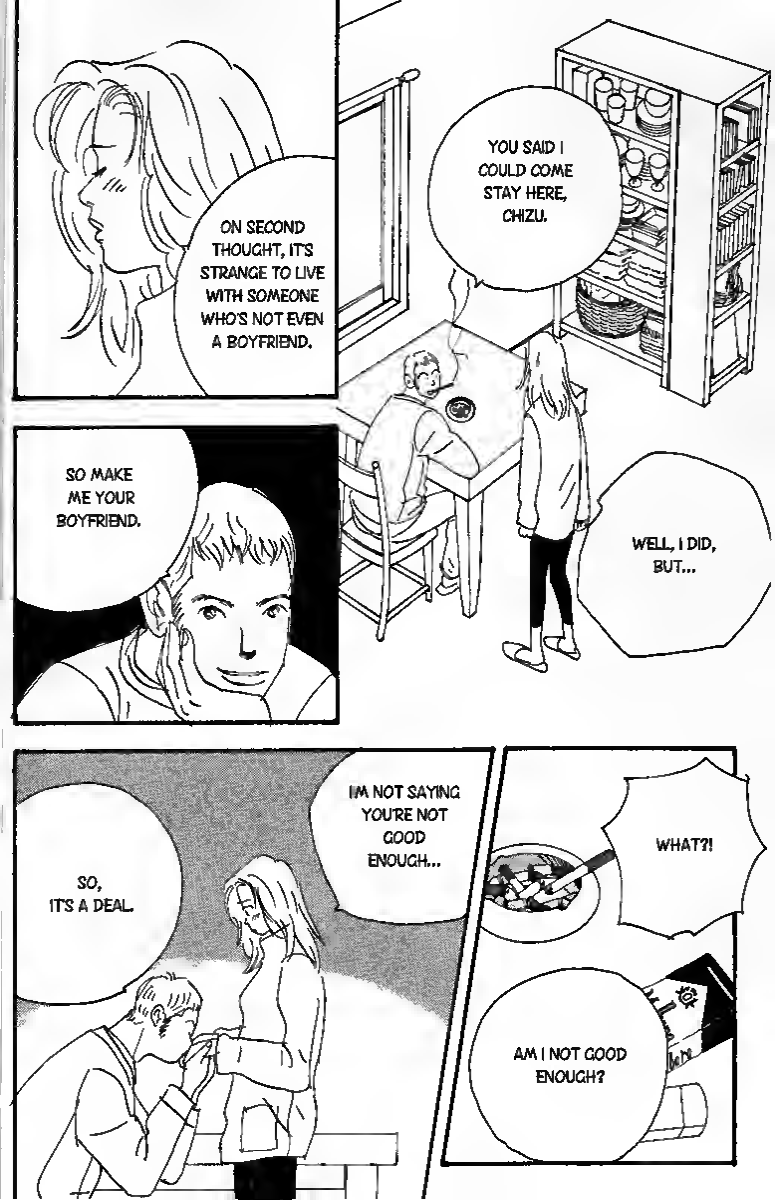
chapter 2

TODAY, THE SKY SEEMS HIGHER THAN YESTERDAY.
SUMMER WILL BE OVER SOON.

WHAT? REALLY?
NOTHING HAPPENED?! YOU GUYS WERE IN THE SAME BED!
NO, NOTHING.
YOU'RE LYING!!
SO, CHIZU...
DID YOU JUST FALL ASLEEP NEXT TO HIM?
HOPELESS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M NOT. WE DIDN'T EVEN KISS.
NOT EVEN A KISS?!


LOOK, YOU'RE NOT RENTING A ROOM TO A HOMELESS GUY FOR CHARITY. YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO MAKE HIM WANT YOU...
CHIZU!!
YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO MAKE THINGS MORE ROMANTIC.
ROMANTIC...?
イエーイ
!!
USA


YOU'RE RIGHT. HEE, HEE, HEE!
I WAS JUST GONNA WAIT FOR YOU OUTSIDE, BUT I THOUGHT COMING HERE WOULD BE FASTER.
I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH STUFF.
WHAT STUFF? OH, ARE YOU...?
NO, THIS ISN'T RIGHT!
I DON'T THINK THIS IS GOOD!


ON SECOND THOUGHT, IT'S STRANGE TO LIVE WITH SOMEONE WHO'S NOT EVEN A BOYFRIEND.
YOU SAID I COULD COME STAY HERE, CHIZU.
WELL, I DID, BUT...
SO MAKE ME YOUR BOYFRIEND.
WHAT?!
AM I NOT GOOD ENOUGH?
I'M NOT SAYING YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH...
SO, IT'S A DEAL.

TAKUSHI...
DO YOU SLEEP WITH ANY GIRL WHO LETS YOU STAY?
DO YOU HOOK UP WITH WHOEVER IS NICE TO YOU?

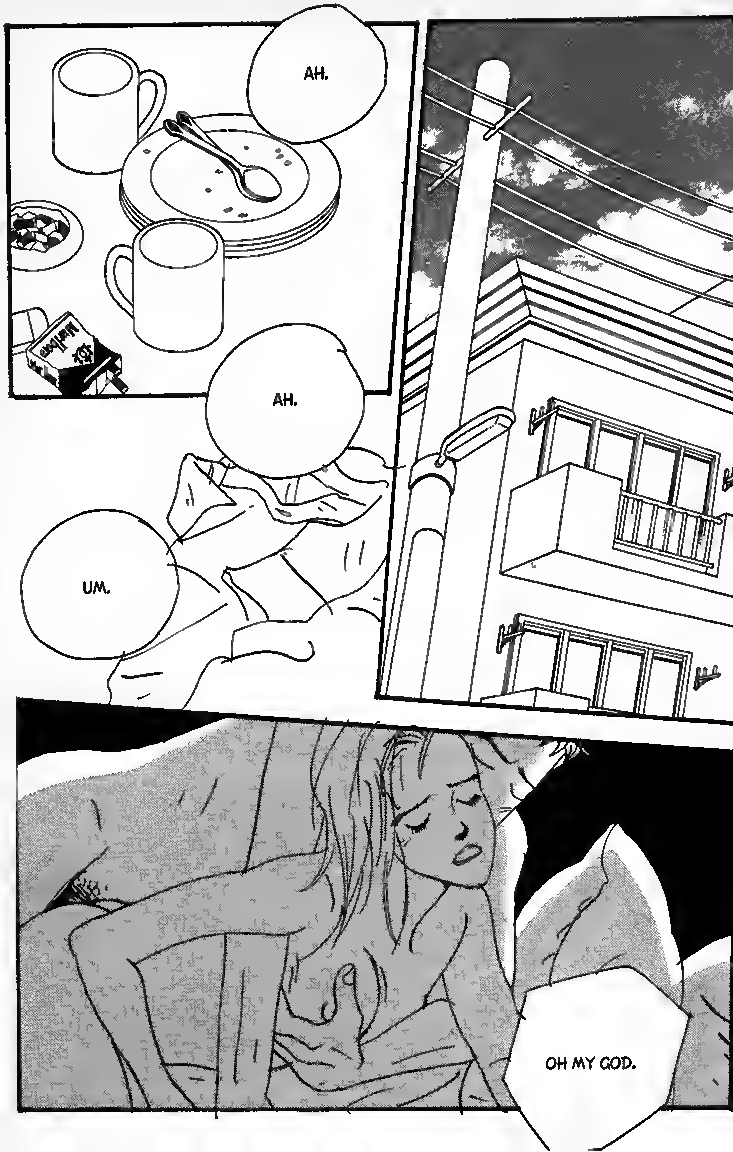
I REALLY LIKE YOU, CHIZU. I ONLY WANT YOU.
NO, NOT AT ALL.
YOU'RE A LIAR...
YOU DIDN'T EVEN KISS ME THE LAST TIME YOU STAYED HERE.
BECAUSE I KNEW THAT YOU WEREN'T THE KIND OF GIRL WHO SLEEPS WITH STRANGERS.

I WOULD PROBABLY GET STUCK WITH HIM.

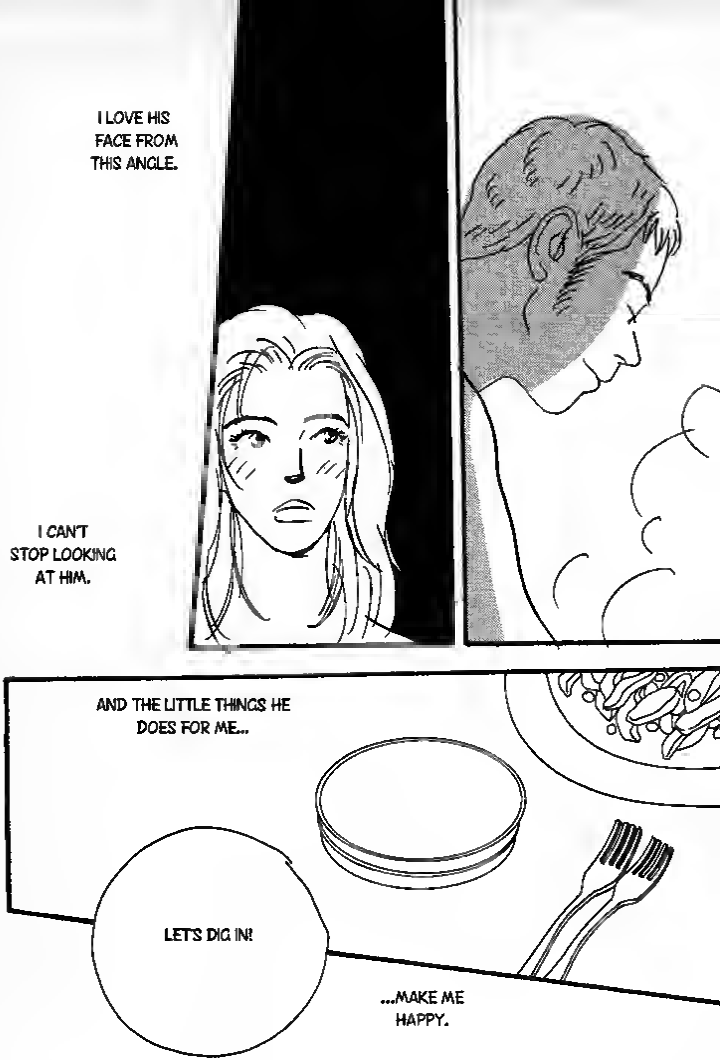
I HAVE TO BE CAUTIOUS. HE IS A TERRIBLE LIAR.

IT REALLY STARTED
THE MOMENT
I FIRST HELD HIM.

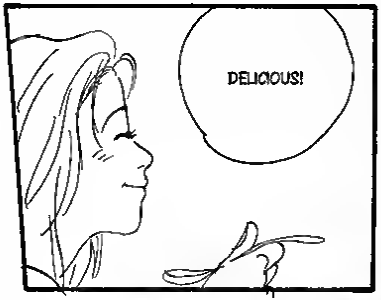
YES.


AH.
AH.
UM.
OH MY GOD.

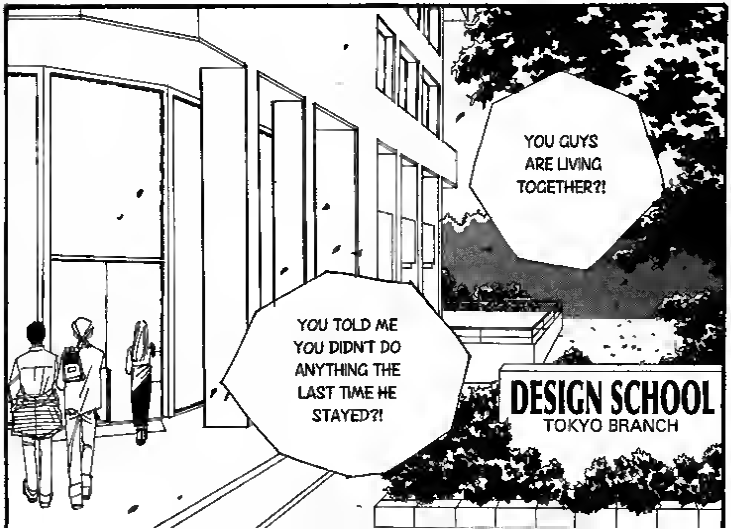
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
I CAN FIX SOMETHING FOR YOU.
I WONDER IF WE CAN DIE FROM TOO MUCH SEX.
THAT WOULD ACTUALLY BE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT IN MY OPINION.
YOU THINK SO? I LOVE TO COOK.
TAKU, YOU'RE SO SWEET.
シャッ シャッ

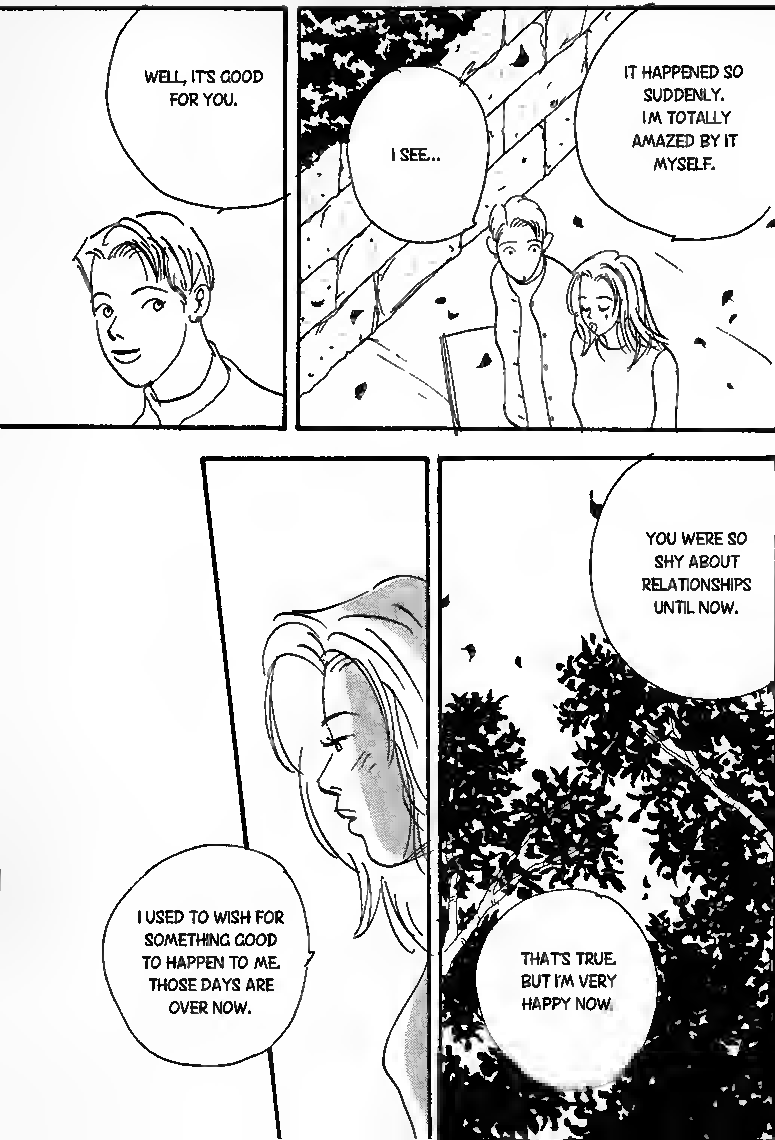

I LOVE HIS FACE FROM THIS ANGLE.
I CAN'T STOP LOOKING AT HIM.
AND THE LITTLE THINGS HE DOES FOR ME...
LET'S DIG IN!
...MAKE ME HAPPY.

EVERY DAY IS FULL OF HAPPINESS.



IT'S A HAPPINESS THAT I'VE NEVER KNOWN BEFORE.

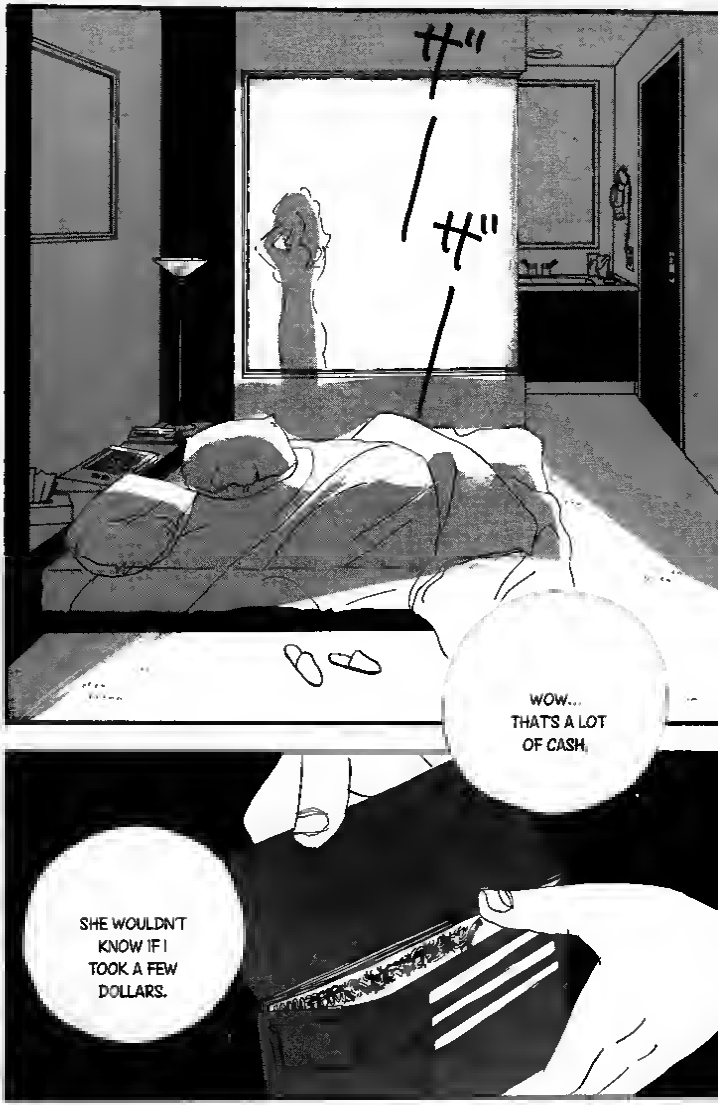



WELL, IT'S GOOD FOR YOU.
I SEE...
IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY. I'M TOTALLY AMAZED BY IT MYSELF.
I USED TO WISH FOR SOMETHING GOOD TO HAPPEN TO ME. THOSE DAYS ARE OVER NOW.
YOU WERE SO SHY ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS UNTIL NOW.
THAT'S TRUE. BUT I'M VERY HAPPY NOW.

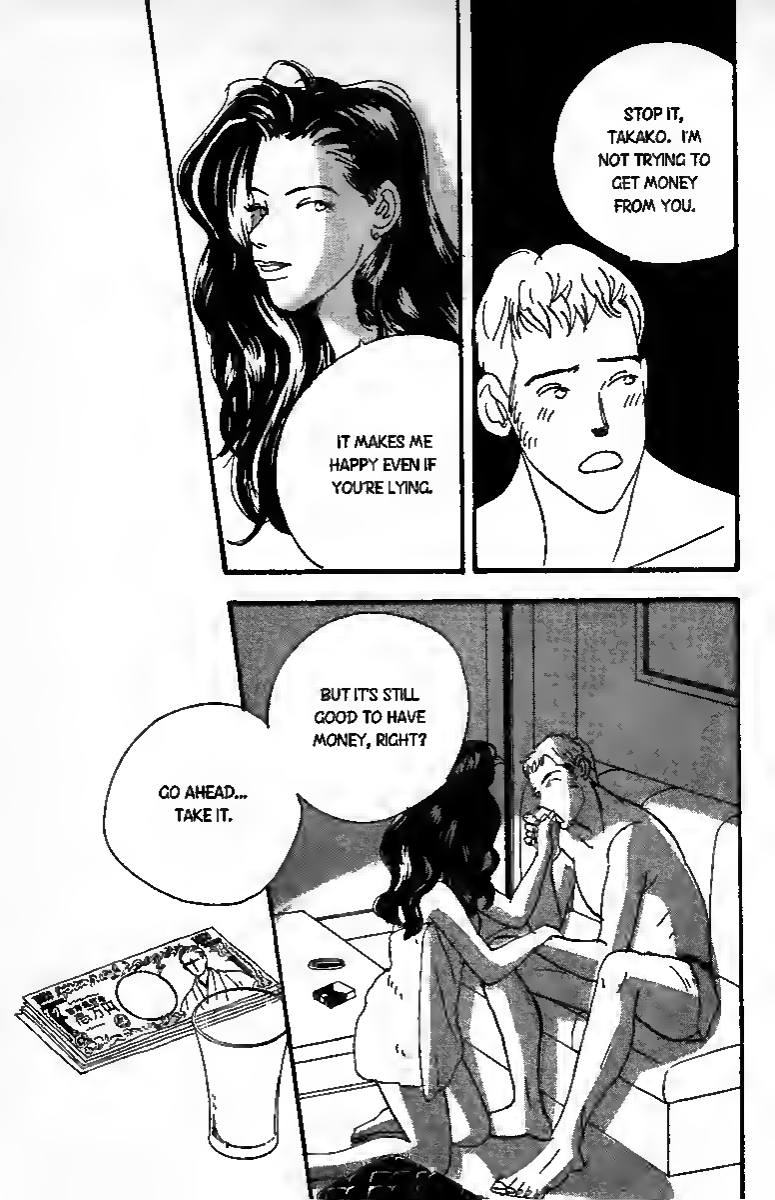
WHAT? YOU'RE STAYING WITH THAT GIRL?
WHY ARE SO MANY GIRLS ATTRACTED TO AN EVIL GUY LIKE YOU?
HEY... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
SHE ISN'T THAT KIND OF GIRL.
DON'T YOU THINK SHE'LL END UP SLASHING HER WRISTS?

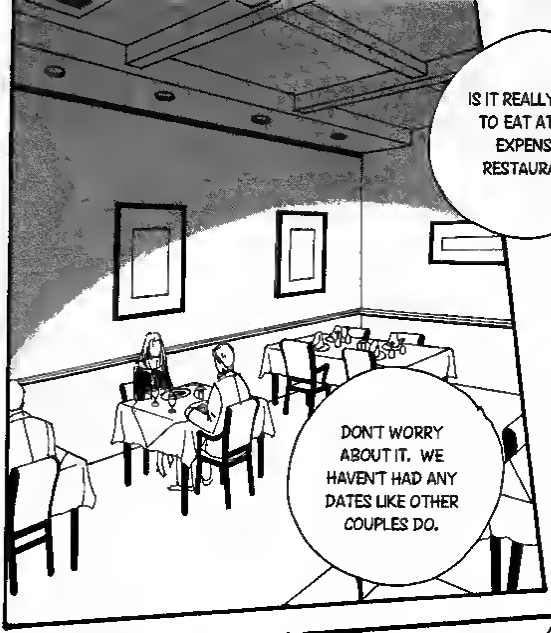
I'M VERY IMPRESSED.
DON'T DO ANYTHING DUMB AND LOSE HER.
SHUT UP!
YOU SOUND SORT OF SERIOUS THIS TIME. ARE YOU?
MAYBE...
WHAT'S THAT? YOU HAVE A PAGER?
I HAVE TO LOOK FOR A JOB.
OH.
.....

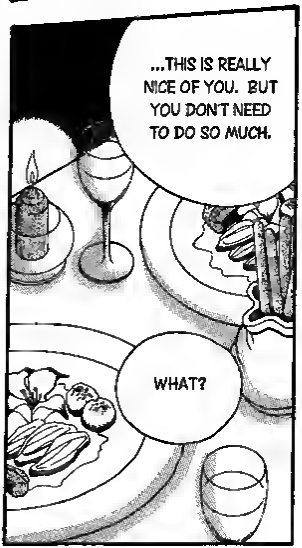
I'VE GOTTA GO NOW. I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO.
I'LL CALL YOU LATER.
IS HER NAME CHIZU? POOR CHIZU. SHE'S IN TROUBLE...

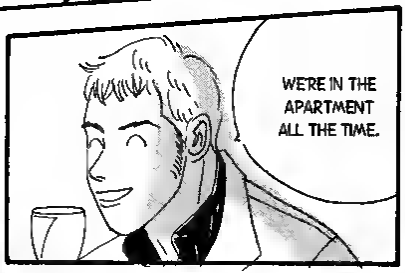

WOW... THAT'S A LOT OF CASH.
SHE WOULDN'T KNOW IF I TOOK A FEW DOLLARS.

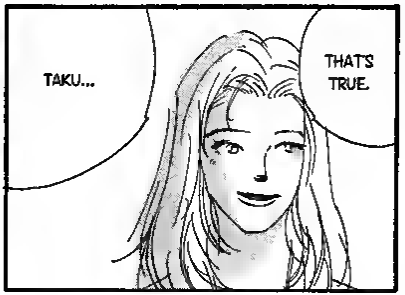
HEY, TAKU. ARE YOU WORKING TONIGHT?
I QUIT THAT JOB.
パタム
SO CLOSE.
THAT'S TOO BIG... BUT DON'T YOU NEED THE MONEY?
WHAT?
HERE'S SOME CASH...
...TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION. SORRY TO ASK YOU TO COME OVER ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.

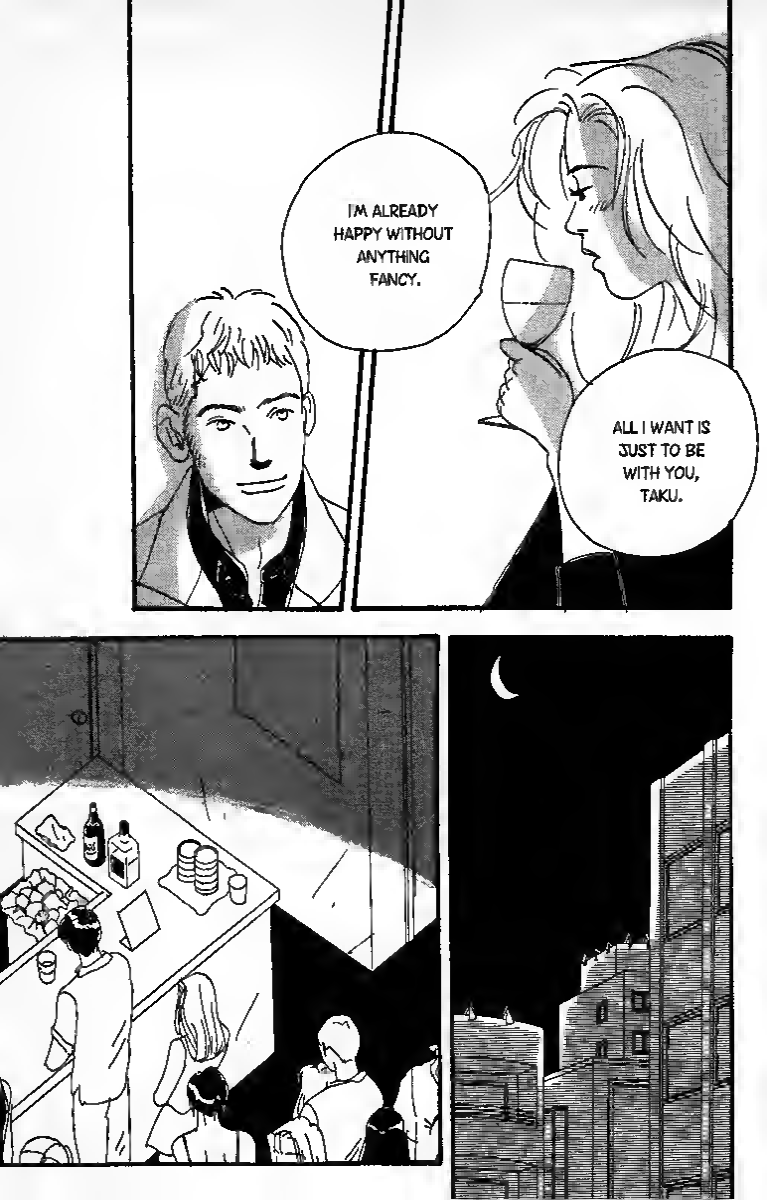

STOP IT, TAKAKO. I'M NOT TRYING TO GET MONEY FROM YOU.
IT MAKES ME HAPPY EVEN IF YOU'RE LYING.
BUT IT'S STILL GOOD TO HAVE MONEY, RIGHT?
GO AHEAD... TAKE IT.

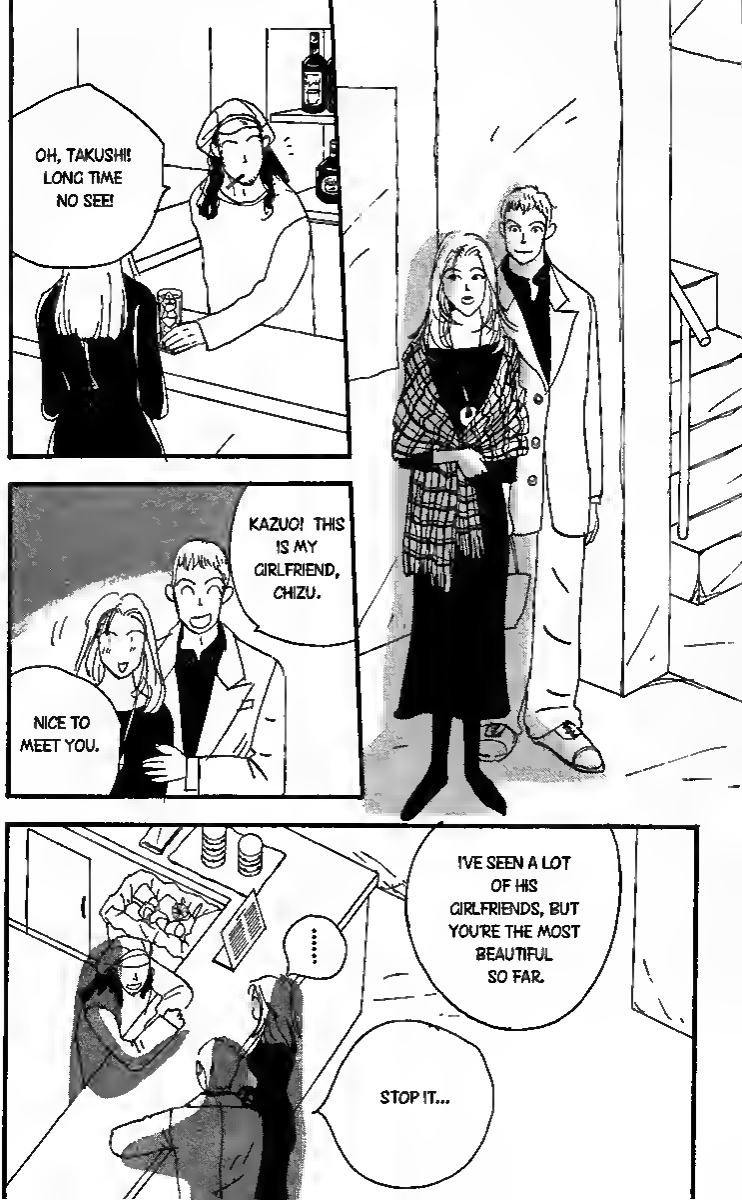

IS IT REALLY OKAY TO EAT AT THIS EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY DATES LIKE OTHER COUPLES DO.


...THIS IS REALLY NICE OF YOU. BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO DO SO MUCH.
WHAT?


WE'RE IN THE APARTMENT ALL THE TIME.

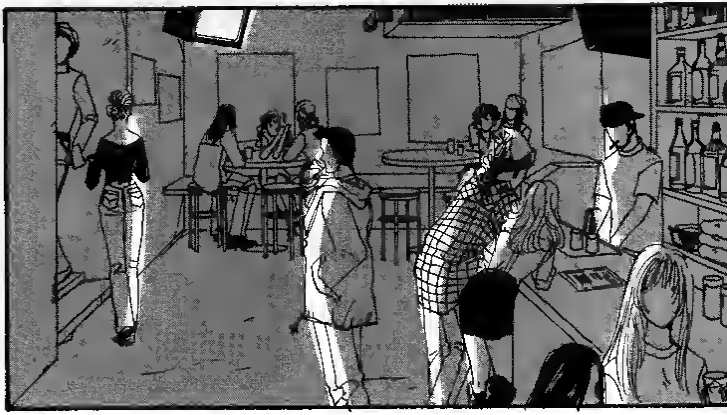

TAKU...
THAT'S TRUE.


I'M ALREADY HAPPY WITHOUT ANYTHING FANCY.
ALL I WANT IS JUST TO BE WITH YOU, TAKU.

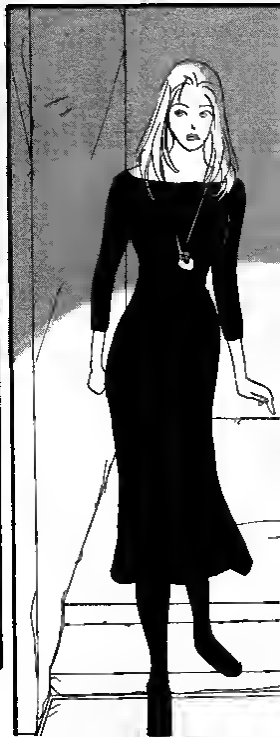

OH, TAKUSHI! LONG TIME NO SEE!
KAZUO! THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND, CHIZU.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'VE SEEN A LOT OF HIS GIRLFRIENDS, BUT YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SO FAR.
.....
STOP IT...

KAZUO IS A FUNNY GUY, ISN'T HE?
YEAH, HE IS.
YOUR JOKE ISN'T CUTE, KASUO.
STOP MAKING A SCARY FACE AT ME. I'M JOKING.
ENJOY YOURSELF TONIGHT.
DID YOU BELIEVE HIS JOKE ABOUT MY GIRLFRIENDS?
NOT REALLY. I'M GONNA GO DANCE.

IT SHOULDN'T BE STRANGE FOR TAKU TO HAVE A LOT OF GIRLFRIENDS.
KAZUO IS RIGHT.
...DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT TAKU AT ALL.
THE TRUTH IS, I STILL...



WHO IS THAT...?



TAKU...?

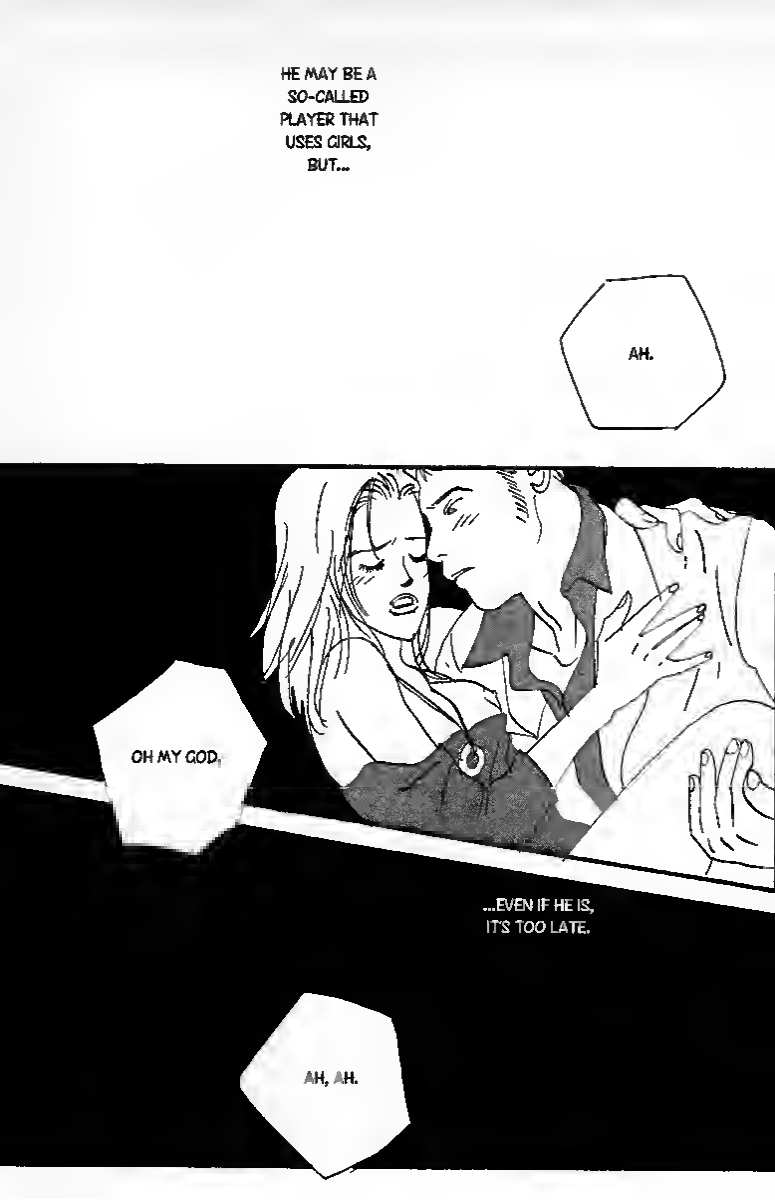
WHO'S SHE?
ARE YOU READY TO GO?
OH, CHIZU. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
OKAY. I'M GONNA GO TO THE COAT CHECK...
WHAT'S SHE DOING WITH TAKU?
STOP IT, MIK!!
OUCH!

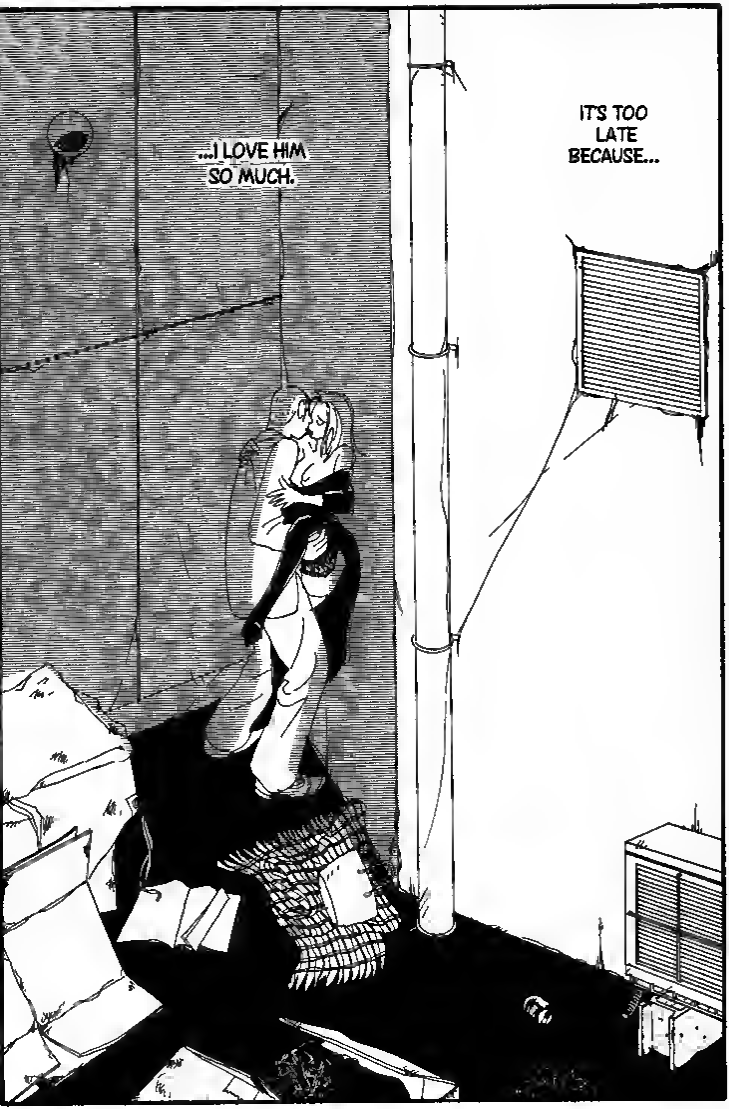
WHAT WAS THAT BITCH DOING?!
WHY DID SHE DO THAT?!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
YEP. HOW ABOUT YOU, CHIZU?
IM OKAY.
LET'S GO.
BUT...!
ITS OKAY. LET'S GO.

I USED TO DATE ONE OF HER GIRLFRIENDS, SO I MET HER A FEW TIMES BACK THEN.
I HAD TROUBLE WITH HER FRIEND, SO WE BROKE UP. SHE'S STILL MAD AT ME FOR HURTING HER GIRLFRIEND.
SHE MISUNDERSTOOD A FEW THINGS.
I WAS ALSO HURT AND UPSET WHEN WE BROKE UP. SHE JUST BELIEVED HER FRIEND OVER ME.
TAKU MUST HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT GIRL.

OF COURSE.
I LIKE YOU A LOT.
WHEN SHE WAS TALKING TO TAKU AT THE BAR, SHE LOOKED SO SAD, LIKE SHE WAS ABOUT TO CRY.
TAKU...
GIRLS NEVER FAKE THAT MUCH OF A SAD FACE, EVEN FOR FRIENDS.
DO YOU LIKE ME?

PLEASE.
BUT, TAKU...
ARE YOU REALLY SURE..
...THAT IT'S OKAY TO DO IT HERE...?
I CAN'T WAIT ANYMORE.
AH.


HE MAY BE A SO-CALLED PLAYER THAT USES GIRLS, BUT...
AH.
OH MY GOD.
...EVEN IF HE IS, IT'S TOO LATE.
AH, AH.


...I LOVE HIM SO MUCH.
IT'S TOO LATE BECAUSE...

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第3章

rules of love

chapter 3

SOMEONE... IT DIDN'T HAVE TO BE HIM.

...I WANTED TO FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE.

ON THAT SUMMER DAY...

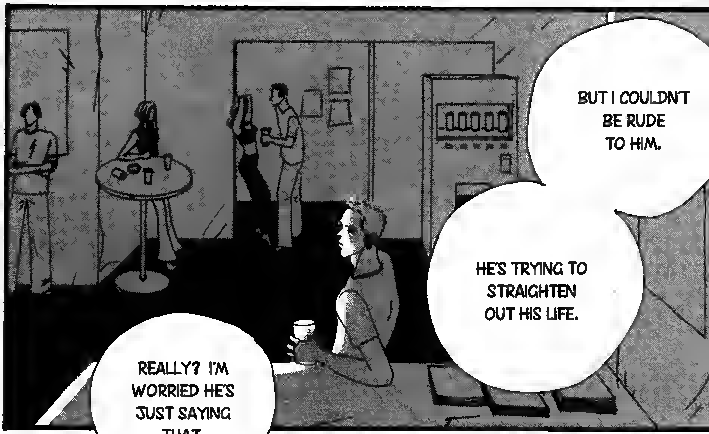
TAKUSHI, GIVE ME SOME TEQUILA. DO WE HAVE ANY CUERVO?
NO, ONLY MARIACHI.

I'M WORKING, MAN.
HEY, TAKU. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MENU
Beer
Gin
Rum
Tequila
Whisky
Vodka
Soft Drink
Juice
Mineral Water
YEAH. HE SEEMED LIKE HE HAD A LOT OF TIME ON HIS HANDS, SO I HIRED THE BUM.
I'M GOING TO MAKE A CALL.
WE SHOULD PARTY TONIGHT. WE HAVEN'T HUNG OUT IN A WHILE.
SURE, YEAH.
TAKU, TAKE A BREAK.
COOL.
AMAZING. AND YOU'RE STILL TAKING CASH FROM WOMEN.
DON'T BE RUDE.

HE HAS A BAD REPUTATION. HE STOPPED SHOWING TO WORK LAST TIME.

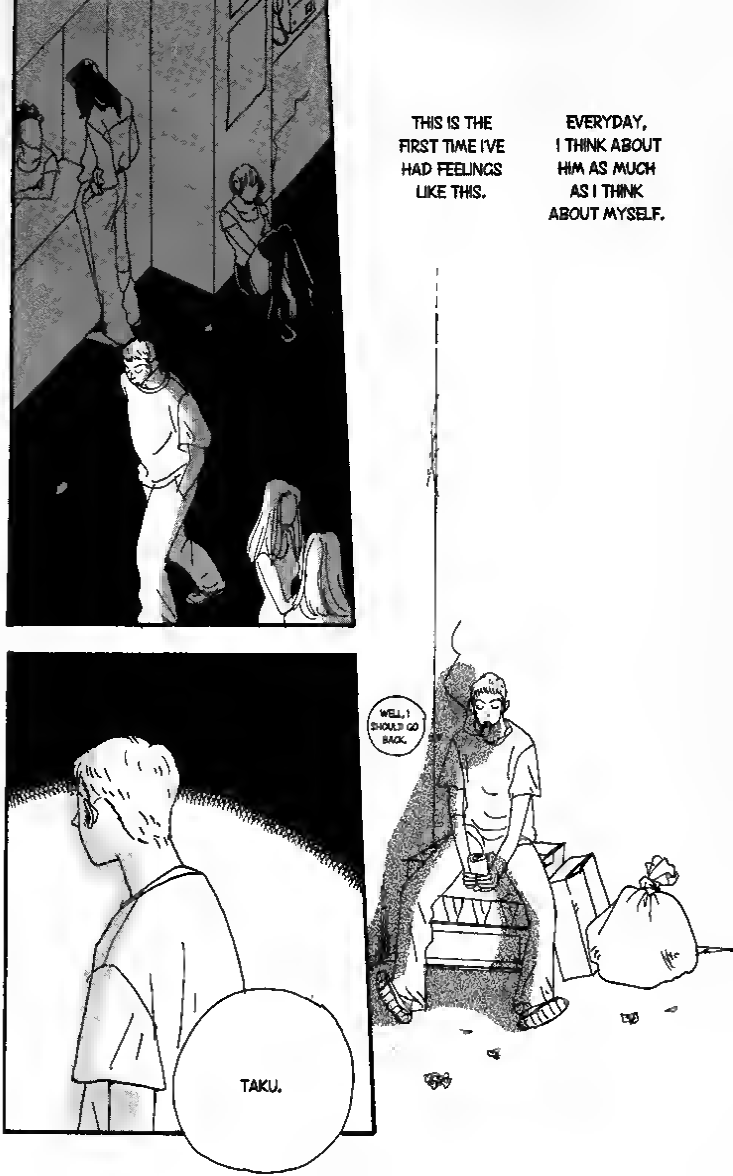
ARE YOU SERIOUS...
...ABOUT HIRING TAKUSHI?

I HEARD ABOUT IT.
I'M AWARE OF HIS REP.


BUT I COULDN'T BE RUDE TO HIM.
HE'S TRYING TO STRAIGHTEN OUT HIS LIFE.
REALLY? I'M WORRIED HE'S JUST SAYING THAT.

HELLO, CHIZU?
ITS ME.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? OH, YOKO IS VISITING YOU.
HIS NEW GIRLFRIEND IS REALLY NICE, SO HE WANTS TO BE COOL.
WOW, YOU'RE KIDDING ME!
OH, BEEF STEW?
IS THERE ANYTHING TO EAT?
SOUNDS GREAT! THANK YOU!!

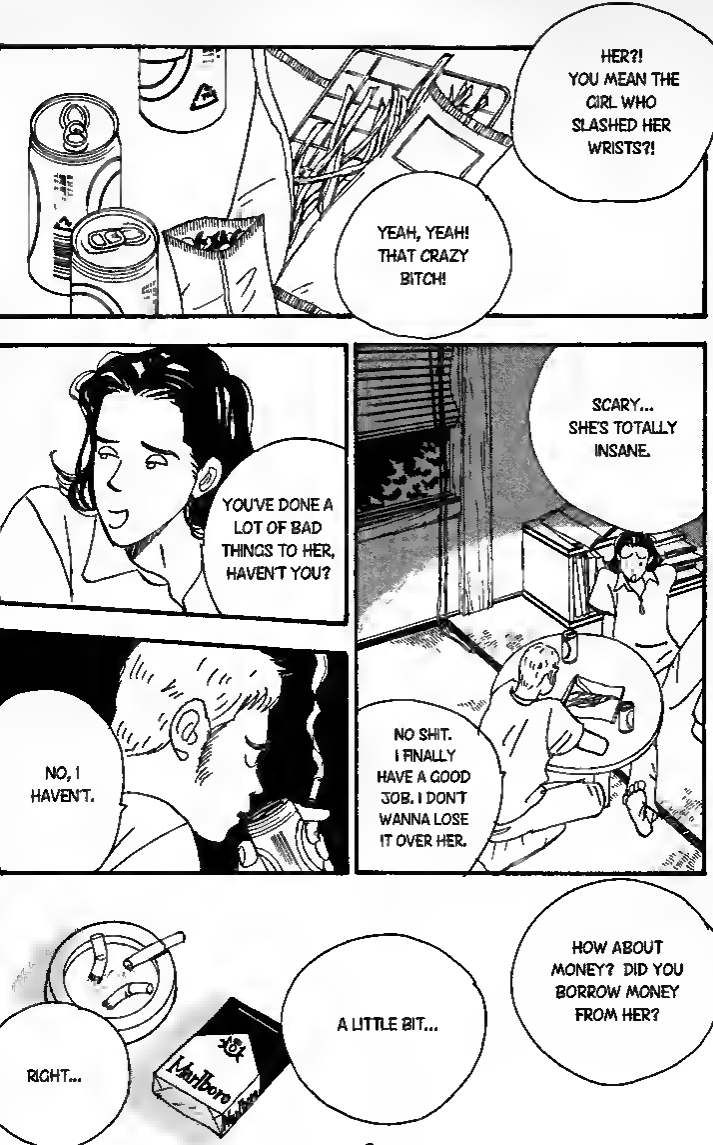
HE MUST BE CRAZY ABOUT YOU.
AMAZING! HE CALLS YOU FROM WORK ALL THE TIME.
THAT'S NOT ALL.
LUCKY GIRL. I ENVY YOU.
YOU STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL.
WELL, I'M LONELY.
FOR ME, BEING WITH TAKU IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING RIGHT NOW.
MORE THAN SCHOOL AND FAMILY...
I'M THINKING ABOUT QUITTING SCHOOL.


THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD FEELINGS LIKE THIS.
EVERYDAY, I THINK ABOUT HIM AS MUCH AS I THINK ABOUT MYSELF.
WELL, I SHOULD GO BACK.
TAKU.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU EVERYWHERE.
I FINALLY FOUND YOU.
MAYUMI...
YOU'RE SO MEAN. YOU JUST DISAPPEARED
LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER. I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
WHAT TIME DO YOU FINISH WORKING TONIGHT?
BUT IT'S OKAY. I'M SEEING YOU NOW!

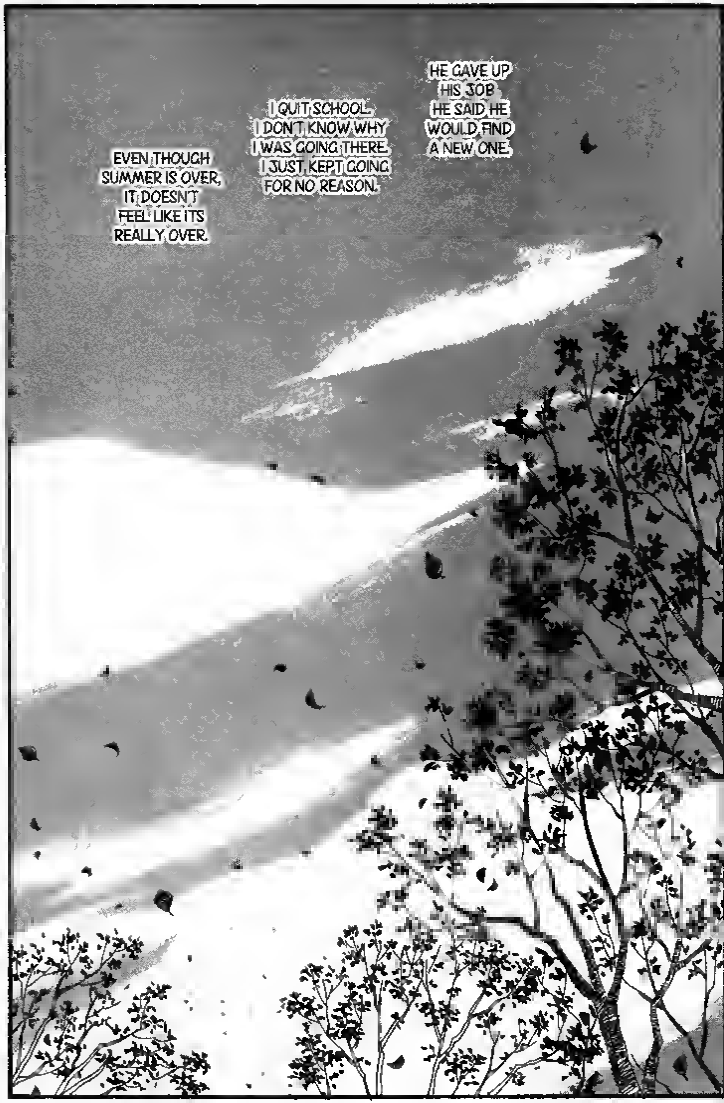
WHAT?!
YOU SAID WE COULD GO OUT AGAIN WHEN I GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL.
MAYUMI... I CAN'T COME WITH YOU. DON'T WAIT FOR ME.
WHY?
LET'S TALK OUTSIDE. IT'S NOT GOOD IN HERE.
I'M SEEING SOMEONE ELSE.
CALM DOWN!
NO!! WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE?!
I'M NOT LEAVING! I'LL STAY!

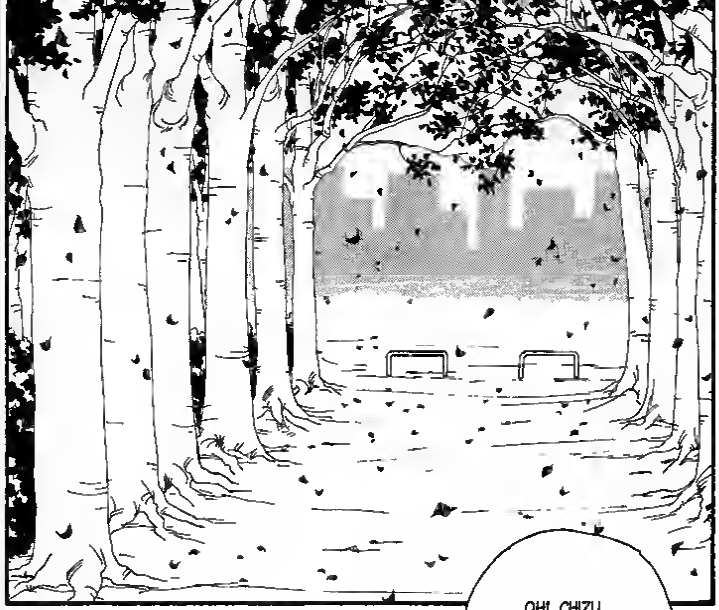
I LOVE YOU, TAKU! I LOVE YOU SO MUCH...
SO...MUCH...
NO...TAKU... DON'T GO TO THAT OTHER GIRL...
MAYUMI, PLEASE! I CAN'T DO THIS RIGHT NOW. I'M WORKING.
I HAD AN ABORTION FOR YOU...
...BECAUSE YOU ASKED ME TO...


HER?! YOU MEAN THE GIRL WHO SLASHED HER WRISTS?!
YEAH, YEAH! THAT CRAZY BITCH!
YOU'VE DONE A LOT OF BAD THINGS TO HER, HAVEN'T YOU?
SCARY... SHE'S TOTALLY INSANE.
NO, I HAVEN'T.
NO SHIT. I FINALLY HAVE A GOOD JOB. I DON'T WANNA LOSE IT OVER HER.
HOW ABOUT MONEY? DID YOU BORROW MONEY FROM HER?
A LITTLE BIT...
RIGHT...
Marlboro

I HAD AN ABORTION FOR YOU...
YEAH, SORT OF.
IT'S COOL TO TAKE MONEY FROM A GIRL. YOU'VE DONE IT TOO, HAVEN'T YOU?
...BECAUSE YOU ASKED ME TO...
I DON'T KNOW...
SO WHY IS SHE CHASING YOU?
NO.
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
REALLY, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING BAD TO HER.

SHE'S HERE AGAIN. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE SOME TIME OFF FOR A WHILE?
I'LL TELL HER YOU QUIT WORKING HERE WHEN SHE ASKS ABOUT YOU.
I GUESS...
DAMMIT. THAT BITCH.


EVEN THOUGH SUMMER IS OVER, IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE ITS REALLY OVER.
I QUIT SCHOOL. I DON'T KNOW WHY I WAS GOING THERE. I JUST KEPT GOING FOR NO REASON.
HE GAVE UP HIS JOB. HE SAID HE WOULD FIND A NEW ONE.



OH! CHIZU, YOUR HANDS ARE SO COLD!

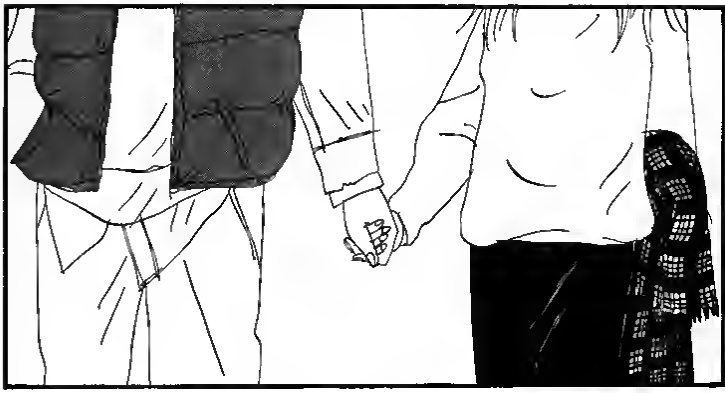
I'LL BUY YOU SOME GLOVES.

OKAY.

ARE THEY?

...BUT I REALLY DON'T NEED GLOVES.

HIS WORDS MAKE ME SO HAPPY...



FOREVER... THAT'S A LONG TIME.

IF WE CAN HOLD HANDS LIKE THIS, THAT'S ALL I NEED.

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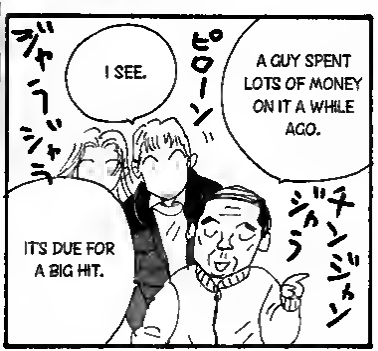
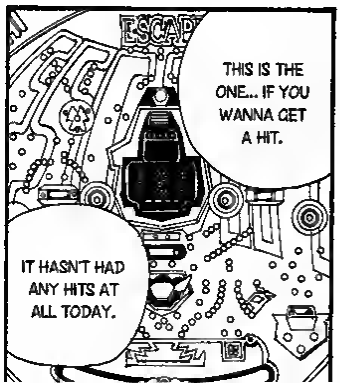
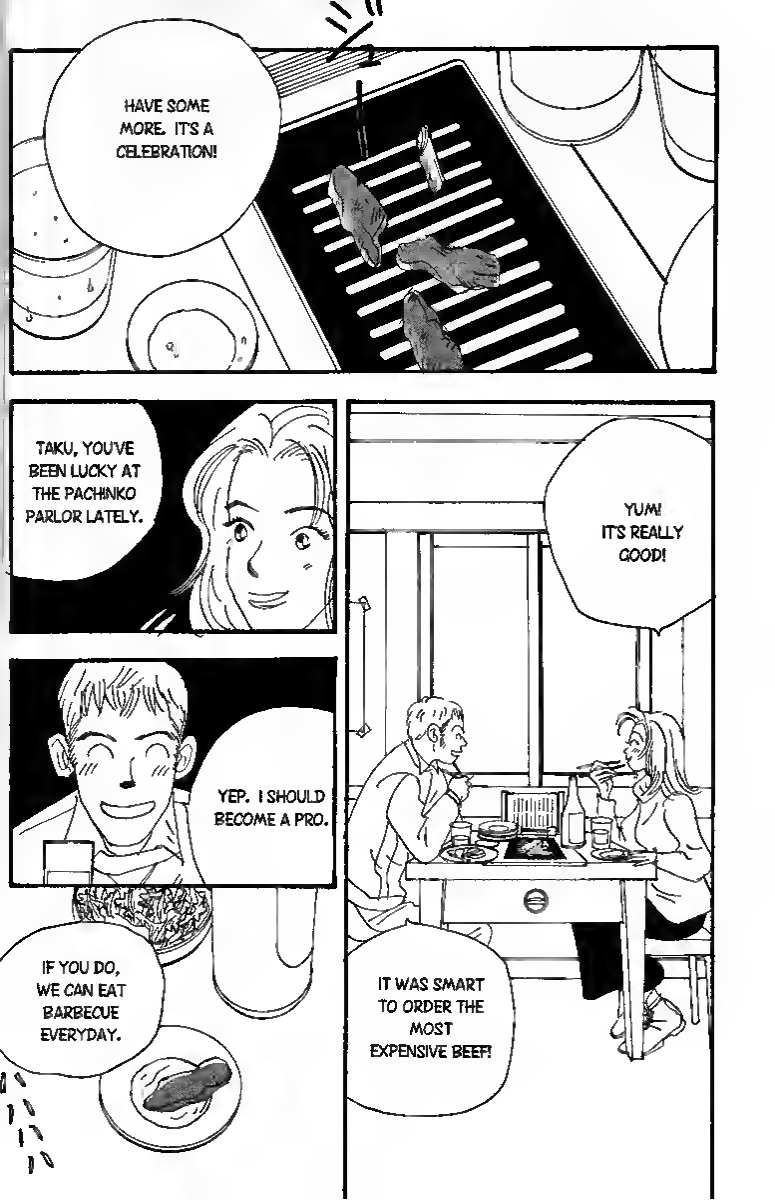
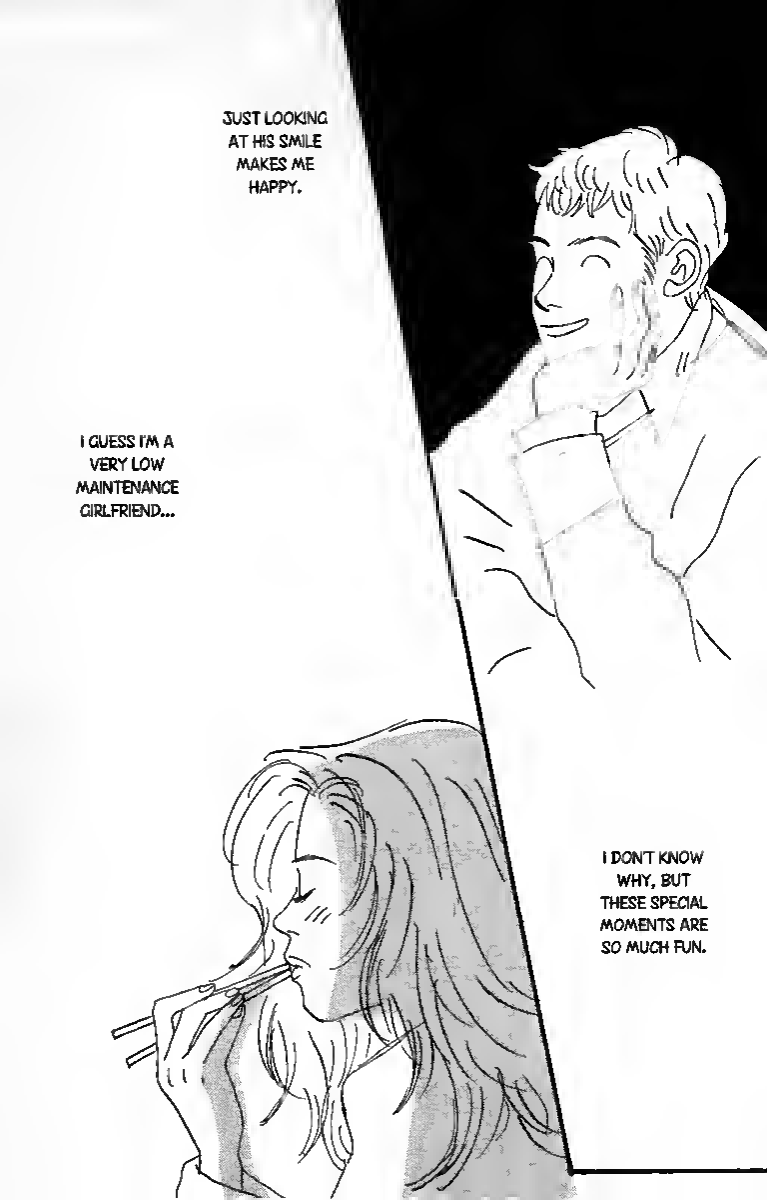
ジャラ
ピロピロピローン
ジャラ
ピローン
ジャラ

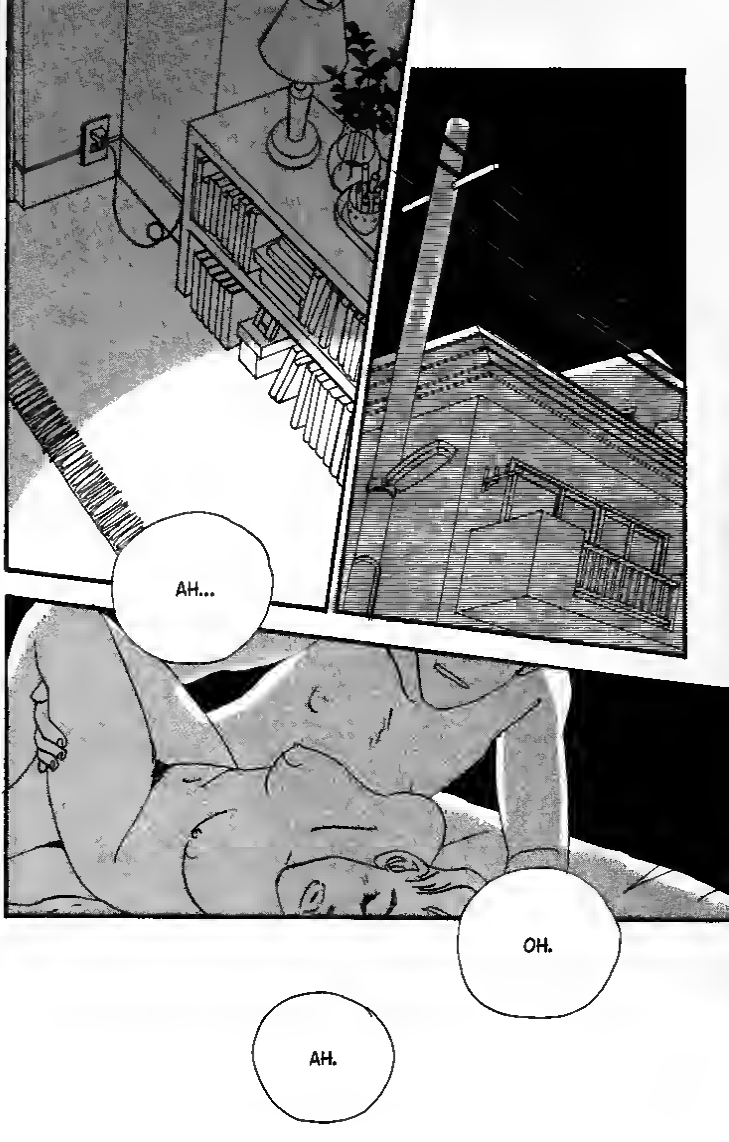

A GUY SPENT LOTS OF MONEY ON IT A WHILE AGO.
ピローン
I SEE.
ジャラジャラ
ジャラジャラ
IT'S DUE FOR A BIG HIT.


ESCAPE
THIS IS THE ONE... IF YOU WANNA GET A HIT.
IT HASN'T HAD ANY HITS AT ALL TODAY.

OH MY GOD!!
YAHOO!!
BIG CONGRATS ON MACHINE NUMBER 108!!
A BIG HIT!!
HEY, LET'S HAVE KOREAN BARBECUE FOR DINNER!
I TOLD YOU. I KNEW IT WAS ABOUT TIME.
YEAH!
THANKS A MILLION, MAN!


HAVE SOME MORE. IT'S A CELEBRATION!
TAKU, YOU'VE BEEN LUCKY AT THE PACHINKO PARLOR LATELY.
YEP. I SHOULD BECOME A PRO.
IF YOU DO, WE CAN EAT BARBECUE EVERYDAY.
YUM! IT'S REALLY GOOD!
IT WAS SMART TO ORDER THE MOST EXPENSIVE BEEF!


JUST LOOKING AT HIS SMILE MAKES ME HAPPY.
I GUESS I'M A VERY LOW MAINTENANCE GIRLFRIEND...
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THESE SPECIAL MOMENTS ARE SO MUCH FUN.


AH...
OH.
AH.

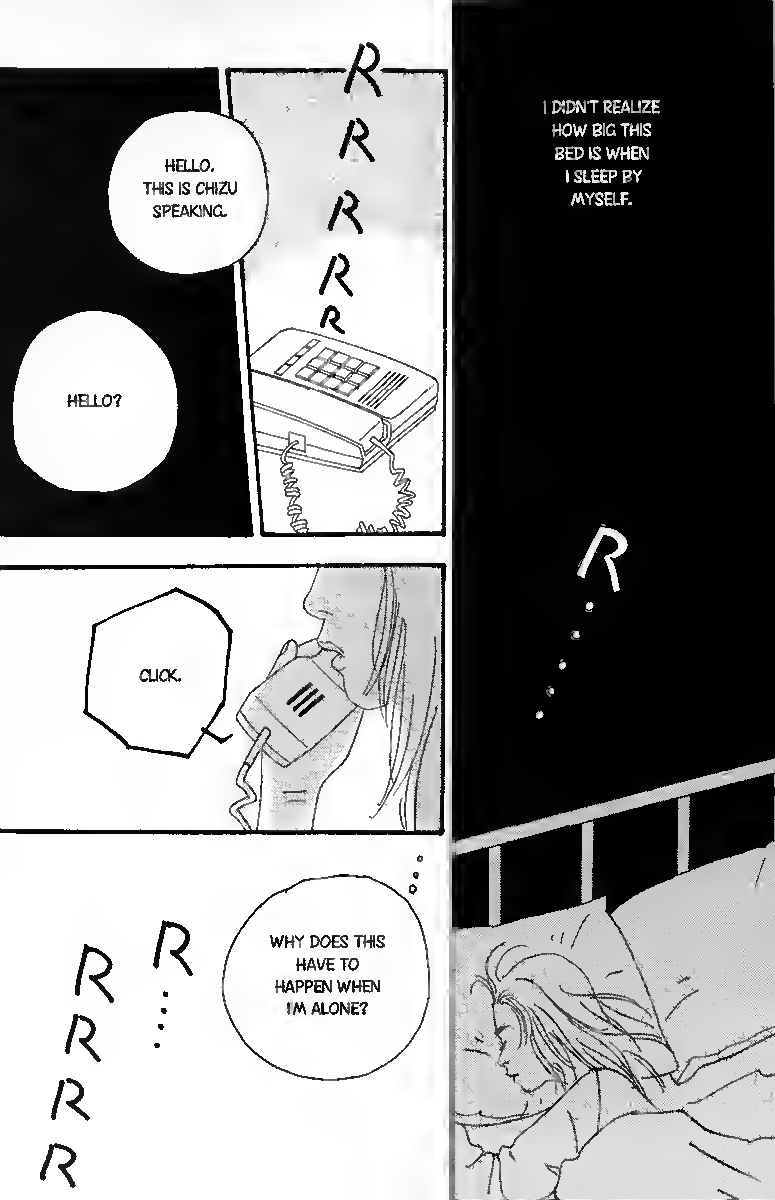
I LOVE YOU,
TAKU.

A PART-TIME JOB? AT THE WINERY IN YAMANASHI?
I'M GOING WITH SHIGE TO HELP OUT.
I NEED TO MAKE SOME MONEY.
Marlboro
THAT'S RIGHT. SHIGE'S PARENTS OWN IT.
THEY'RE SHORT-HANDED THIS YEAR, AND IT'S HARVEST TIME.
IT'LL PROBABLY JUST BE THREE DAYS OR SO.
YOU'RE RIGHT... MAYBE I SHOULD LOOK FOR A JOB TOO.
YOU DON'T NEED TO, CHIZU.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
YOU JUST RELAX AND WAIT FOR ME WHILE I GO MAKE US SOME CASH.
OH, TAKU.
CROP SEASON FOR GRAPES?!

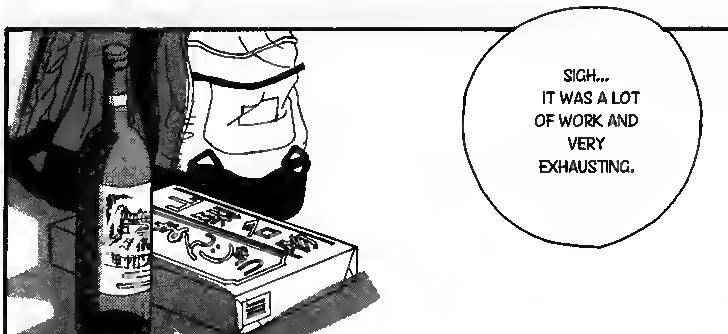
WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
IS SHE SHY? HOW OLD IS SHE?
SHE BOUGHT IT SO EASILY.
YOUR GIRLFRIEND MUST BE REALLY NAIVE.
STOP IT, TAKAKO.
YOU DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND, EITHER, DO YOU?
AH... UM...

THE FIRST NIGHT WITHOUT TAKU.
TAKAKO, YOU'RE SO HOT...
AH... NO...
...FEELS GOOD.


I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW BIG THIS BED IS WHEN I SLEEP BY MYSELF.
R
R
R
R
R
HELLO. THIS IS CHIZU SPEAKING.
HELLO?
CLICK.
R
R
R
R
R
WHY DOES THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN WHEN I'M ALONE?

HE'S CHEATING ON YOU...
HE DOESN'T HAVE REAL FEELINGS FOR YOU.
HELLO? HELLO?
AGAIN...
.....
HE HAS OTHER WOMEN.
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE WRONG IF YOU THINK THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HE'S SEEING.
YOU...! IT'S SO RUDE TO CALL ME THIS LATE AND TELL ME THIS BULLSHIT!

I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU.
IF YOU DON'T BREAK UP WITH HIM SOON, YOU'LL GET HURT LIKE I DID.
ガシャ


SIGH...
IT WAS A LOT OF WORK AND VERY EXHAUSTING.

BUT EVERYONE WAS REALLY COOL, SO I LIKED IT.

AND THEY PAID ME A LOT OF MONEY.

DID HE LIE ABOUT WORKING AT THE WINERY?

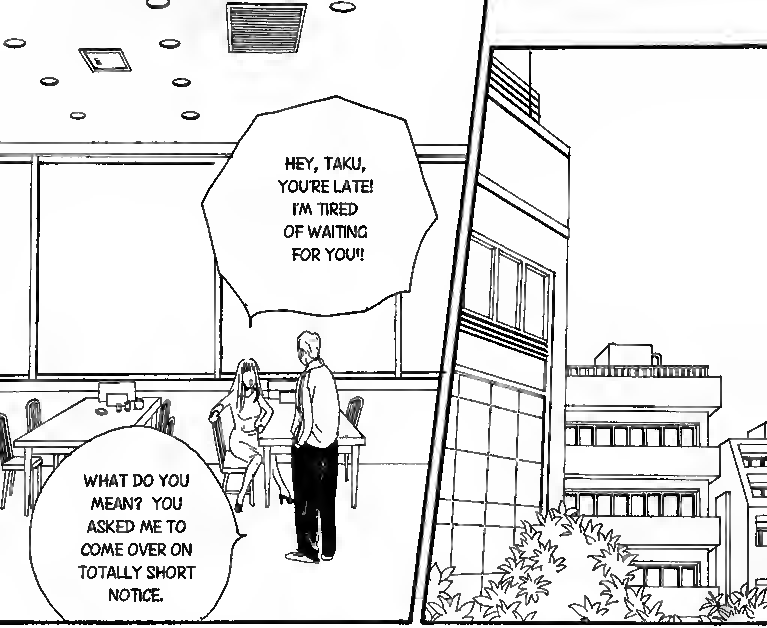
CHIZU, YOU LOOK A BIT DOWN LATELY.

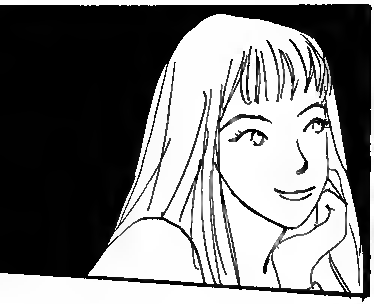
HOW ABOUT GOING TO A MOVIE?
AN ART FLICK IS SHOWING AT THE CINEMA RISE.
I'M TOTALLY FINE.
KEY COFFEE
REALLY? I'M GLAD.
IT'S FROM KAZUO.
I'M GONNA CALL HIM.
ピーピーピーピー
OOPS.

I SEE...
HE HAS A JOB FOR ME.
I'VE GOT TO GO OVER TO HIS PLACE NOW.
TOKYU HANDS
DISCO
SORRY ABOUT THIS. GO HOME. I'LL CALL YOU LATER.
IS IT TRUE?

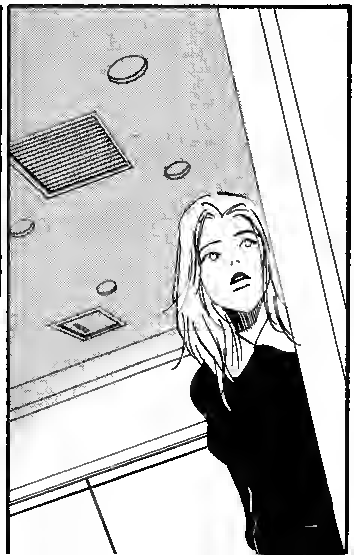
TAKU, TELL ME THE TRUTH.

WHERE ARE YOU REALLY GOING? WHO ARE YOU GOING TO SEE?

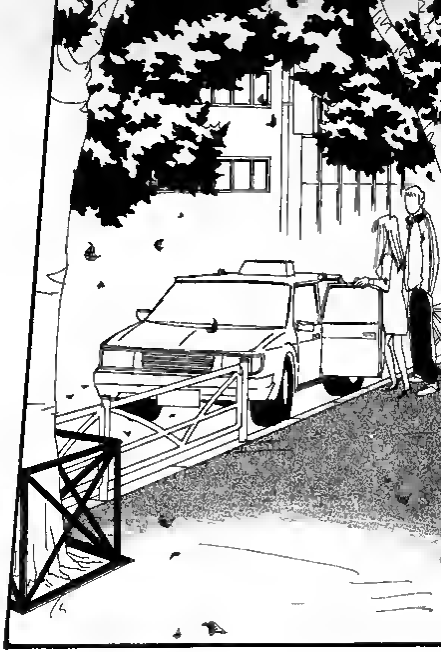




THAT'S THE GIRL FROM BEFORE...

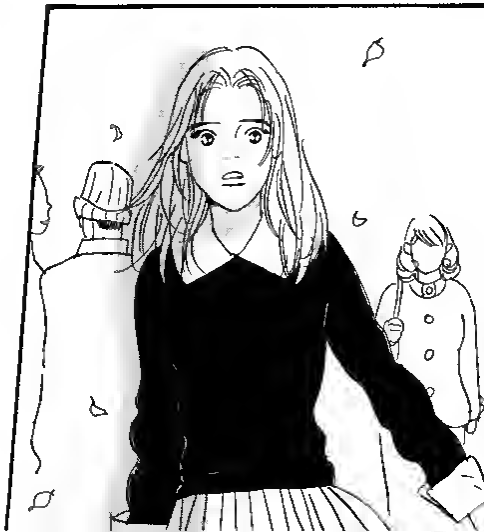


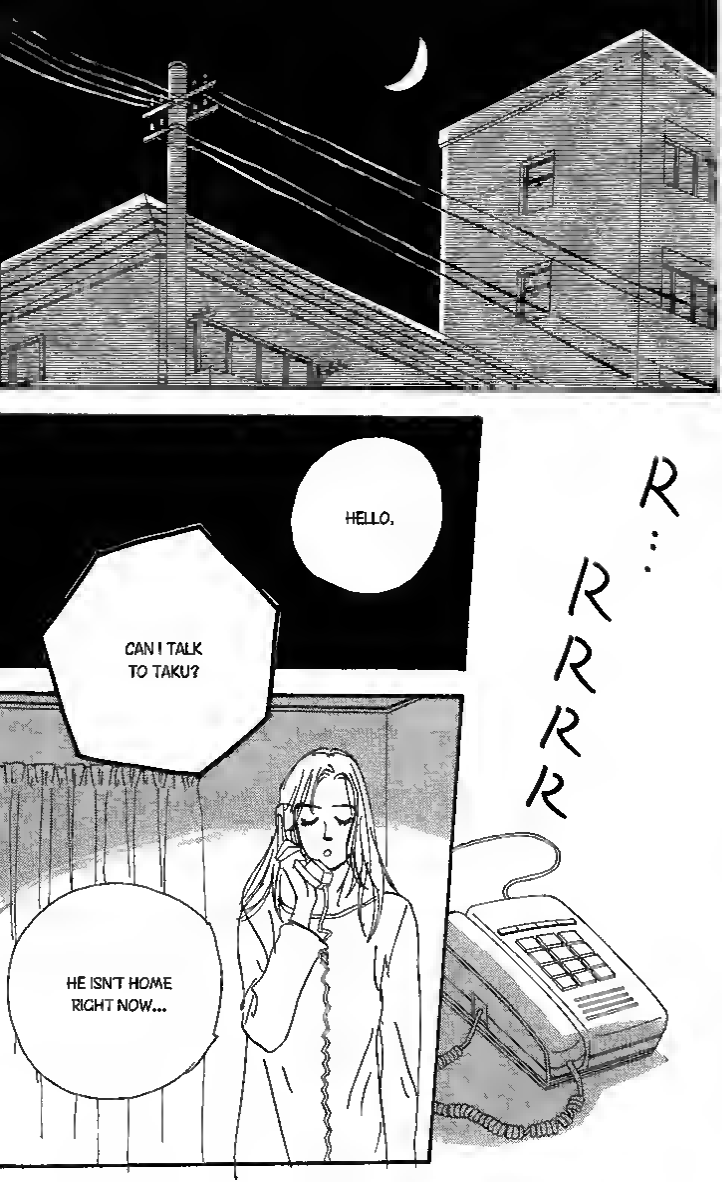
WHY, TAKU?



YOU SAID SHE WAS JUST YOUR FRIEND.

IF SHE IS, WHY DID YOU LIE TO ME?




R...
RRRR
HELLO.
CAN I TALK TO TAKU?
HE ISN'T HOME RIGHT NOW...

IT'S...IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT YOU'RE A REAL BITCH!
IS HE AT ANOTHER GIRL'S HOUSE?
HOW STUPID ARE YOU?
LEAVE US ALONE!!
ガシャン
UGH...

I CAN'T...
...I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...

TAKU... WHAT ON EARTH SHOULD I DO...?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? AND WHO ARE YOU WITH?

WHERE ARE YOU, TAKU?

I'M HOME.
ARE YOU AWAKE, CHIZU?
WHAT...
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

LIAR.
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHY AM I A LIAR?
WERE YOU FOLLOWING ME?
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL NIGHT? YOU WEREN'T AT KAZUO'S!
THAT'S RIGHT! IS ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT?!
I KNOW YOU WERE WITH THAT GIRL.

YOU WENT TO HAKONE LAST NIGHT!
WHY DID YOU DO THAT...?
YOU EVEN BOUGHT A SOUVENIR FROM YAMANASHI. IT'S STUPID!!
IT'S YOUR FAULT! YOU LIED TO ME.
YOU LIED!
CHIZU, YOU'RE WRONG.
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME, LIAR!
LISTEN TO ME, CHIZU
NO!!

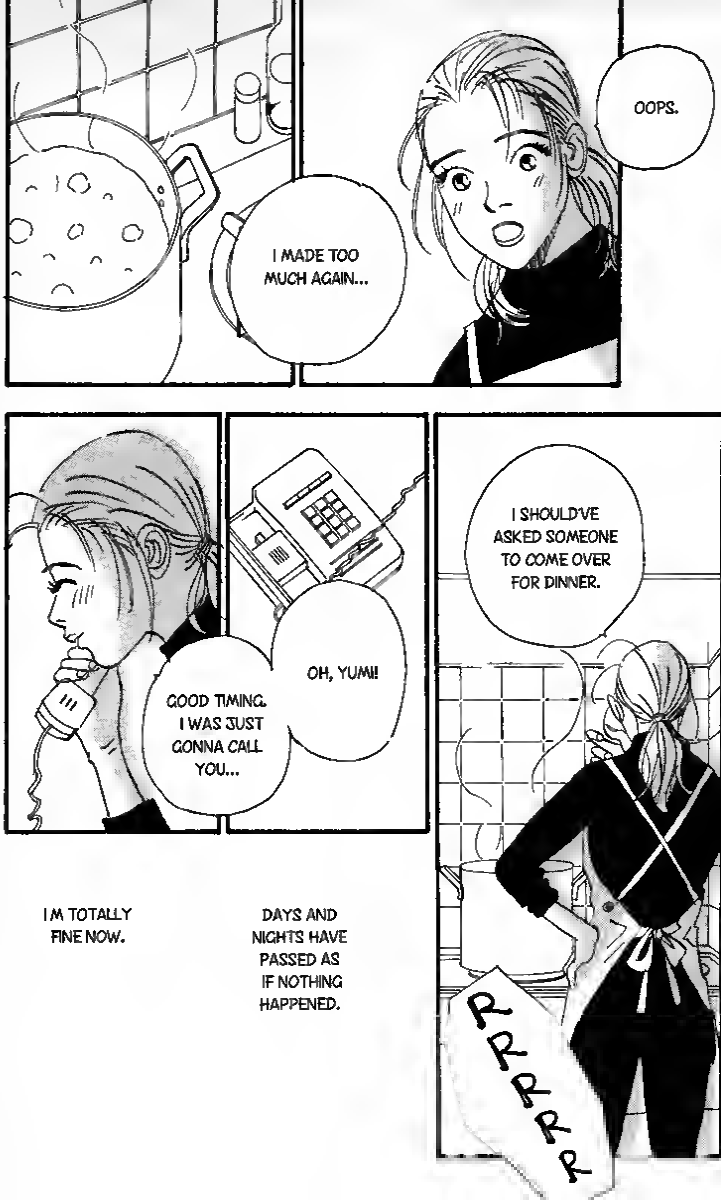
I'M SORRY, CHIZU. I CAN EXPLAIN. I'M SORRY...
NO...
.....
YOU THINK IT'S BETTER JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE HOLDING ME?
NO...
DON'T TOUCH ME WITH YOUR DIRTY HANDS THAT HAVE TOUCHED OTHER WOMEN...
YOU'RE DIRTY... HICCUP.
DON'T TOUCH ME... HICCUP.

JERK...
HICCUP.
GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!
THAT'S ENOUGH.
GET OUT!
HICCUP.
HICCUP.
I HATE YOU...

パーン!
YOU'RE A JERK!
HICCUP.
HICCUP.
TAKU HAS NOT BEEN BACK SINCE THEN.

THE CALLS FROM THAT BITCH ALSO STOPPED. LONG BEFORE I EVEN NOTICED, THE WINTER IS ALMOST OVER.

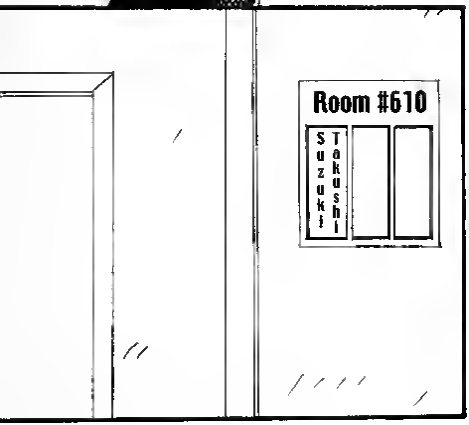
THAT IS HOW WE ENDED.


OOPS.
I MADE TOO MUCH AGAIN...
I SHOULD'VE ASKED SOMEONE TO COME OVER FOR DINNER.
RRRRR
OH, YUM!
GOOD TIMING. I WAS JUST GONNA CALL YOU...
I'M TOTALLY FINE NOW.
DAYS AND NIGHTS HAVE PASSED AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED.

R
R
R
.....
R
R
R
R
HELLO.
HELLO.
CHIZU...
.....
R

SOME CRAZY WOMAN STABBED ME.

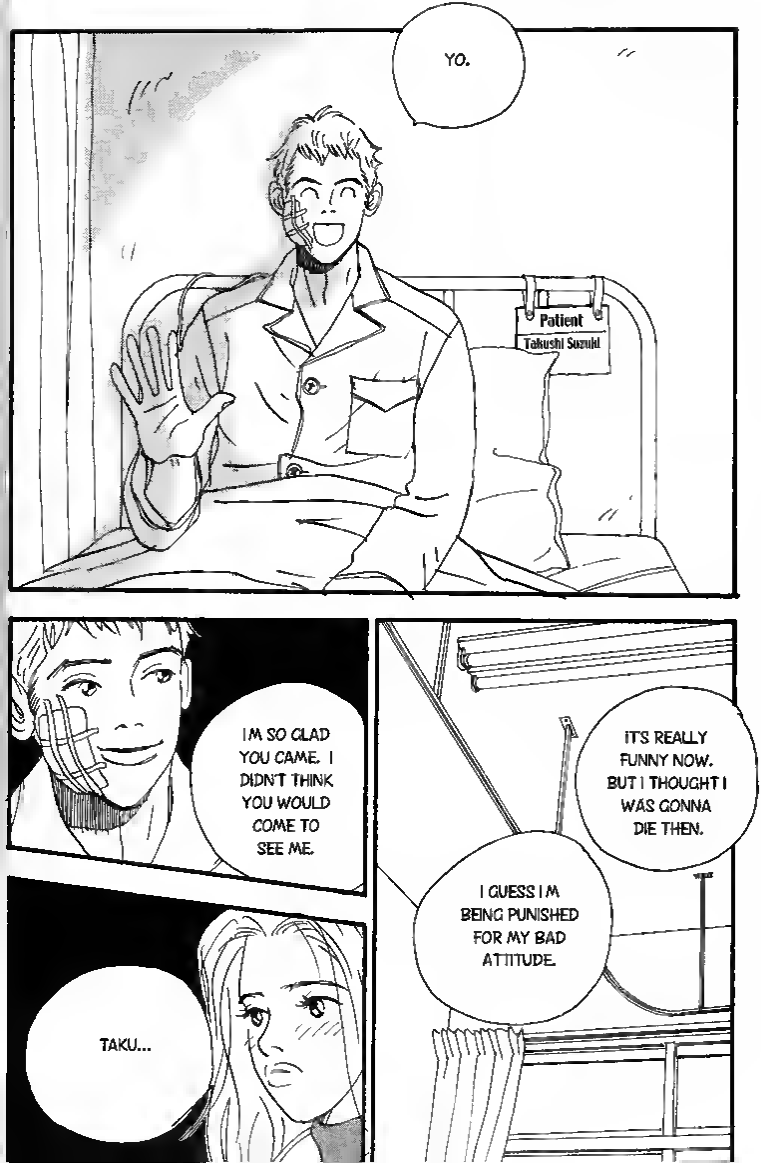
SO MANY THINGS?



WHERE ARE YOU...?

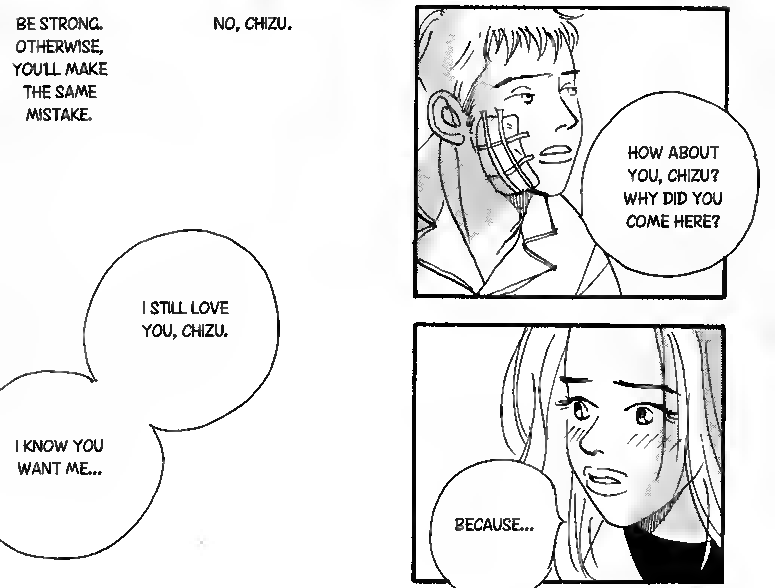
TAKU...?!

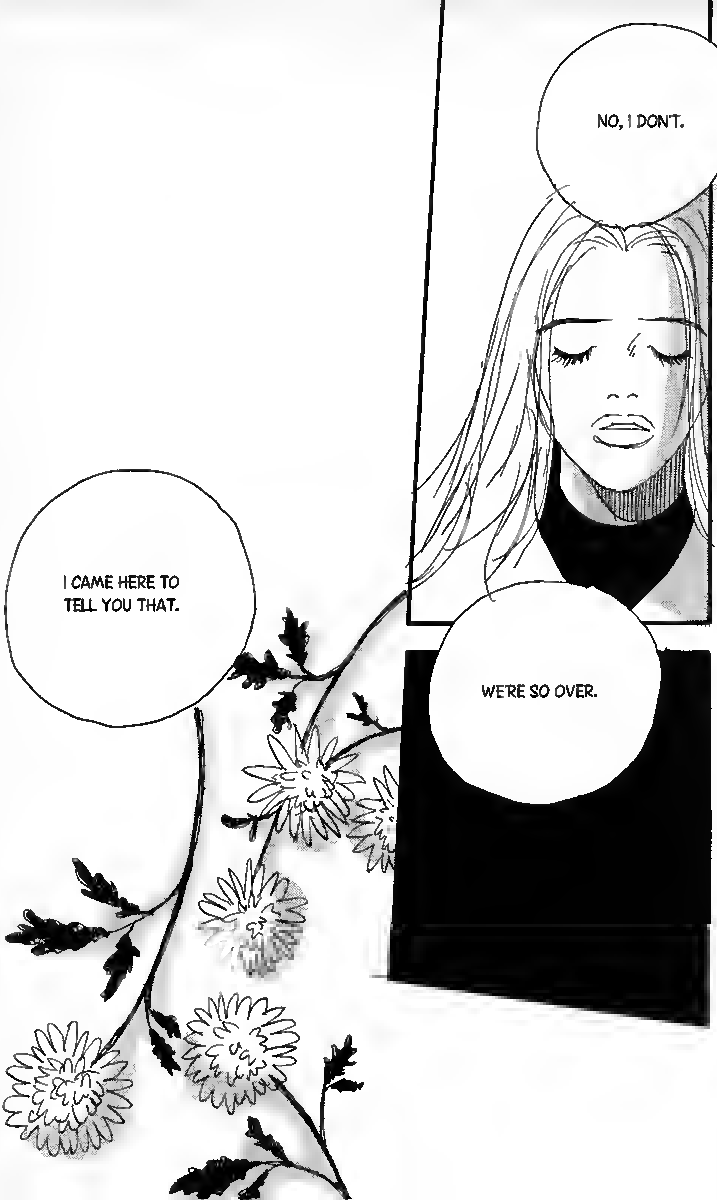
SO MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED. I'M IN THE HOSPITAL.

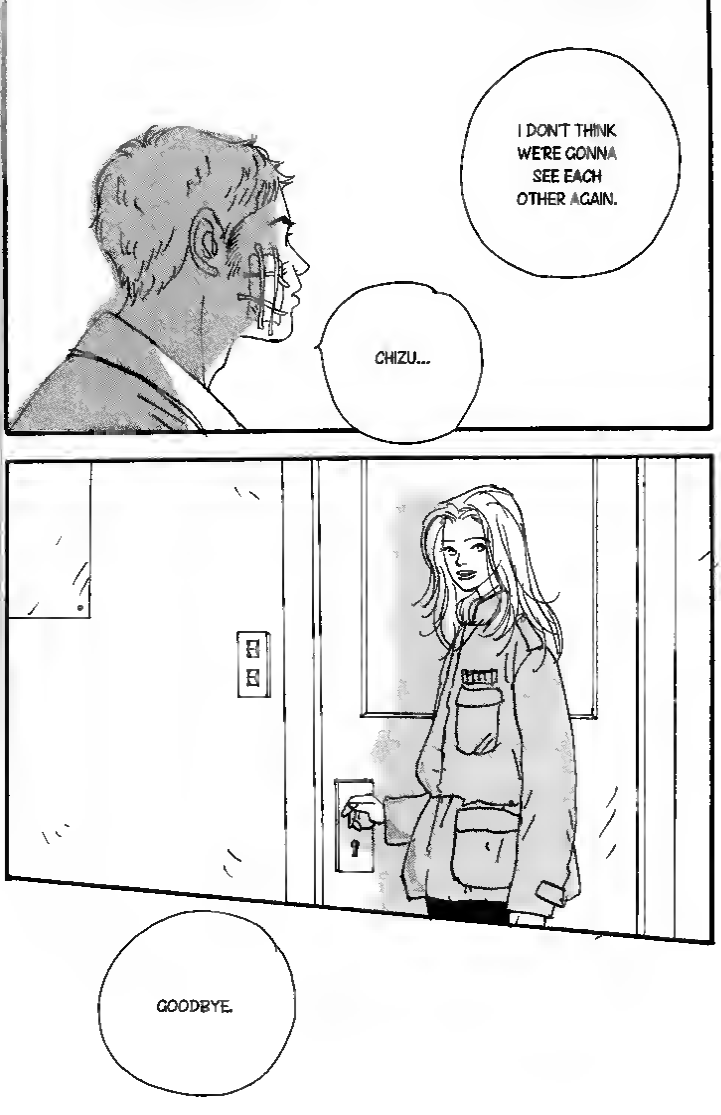

YO.
Patient
Takushi Suzuki
I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME. I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD COME TO SEE ME.
IT'S REALLY FUNNY NOW. BUT I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE THEN.
I GUESS I'M BEING PUNISHED FOR MY BAD ATTITUDE.
TAKU...

TAKU?
JUMP MAGAZINE WAS SOLD OUT.
IT SHOULDN'T BE SOLD OUT. WHERE DID YOU GO TO GET IT?
YOU SHOULDN'T GO TO THE KIOSK DOWNSTAIRS. GO TO A BOOKSTORE.
HURRY UP.
...
ERRR... WHY DO I HAVE TO...?
WHAT A STUPID BITCH...
IS SHE YOUR NEW GIRLFRIEND?
NO, SHE ISN'T ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

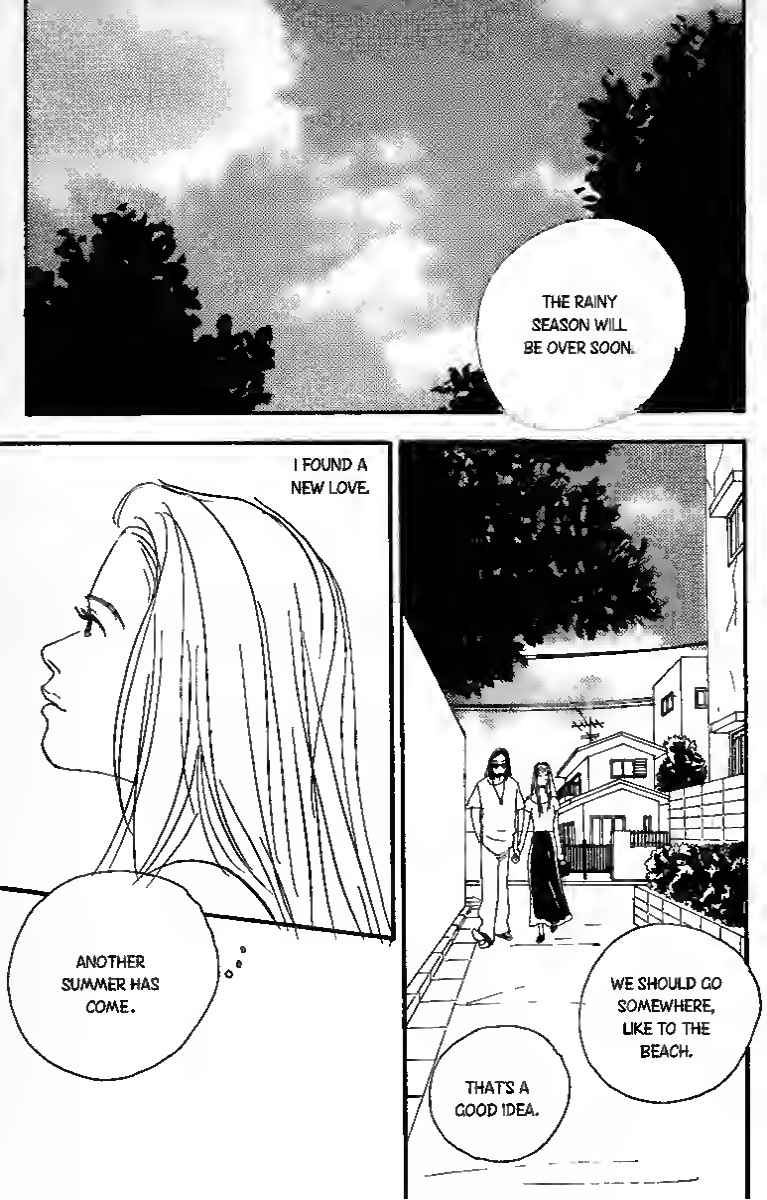
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT NOW...?
YOU NEVER CALLED ME SINCE THAT NIGHT...
WHY NOW...?
I'VE WANTED TO SEE YOU FOR A LONG TIME, CHIZU.

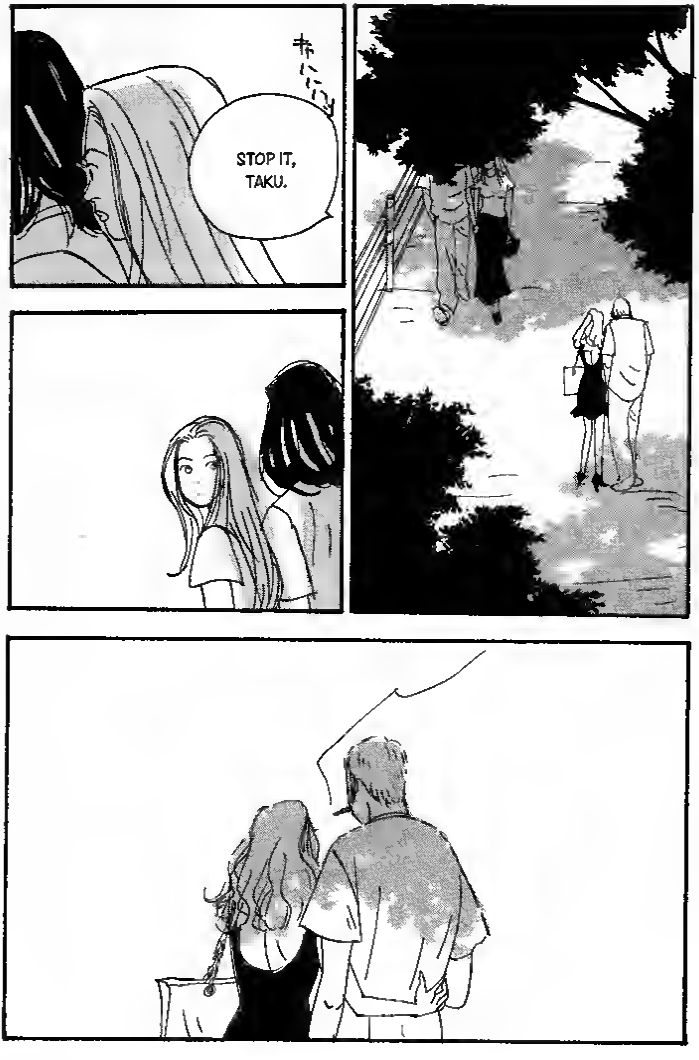

BE STRONG. OTHERWISE, YOU'LL MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE.
NO, CHIZU.
HOW ABOUT YOU, CHIZU? WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
I STILL LOVE YOU, CHIZU.
I KNOW YOU WANT ME...
BECAUSE...

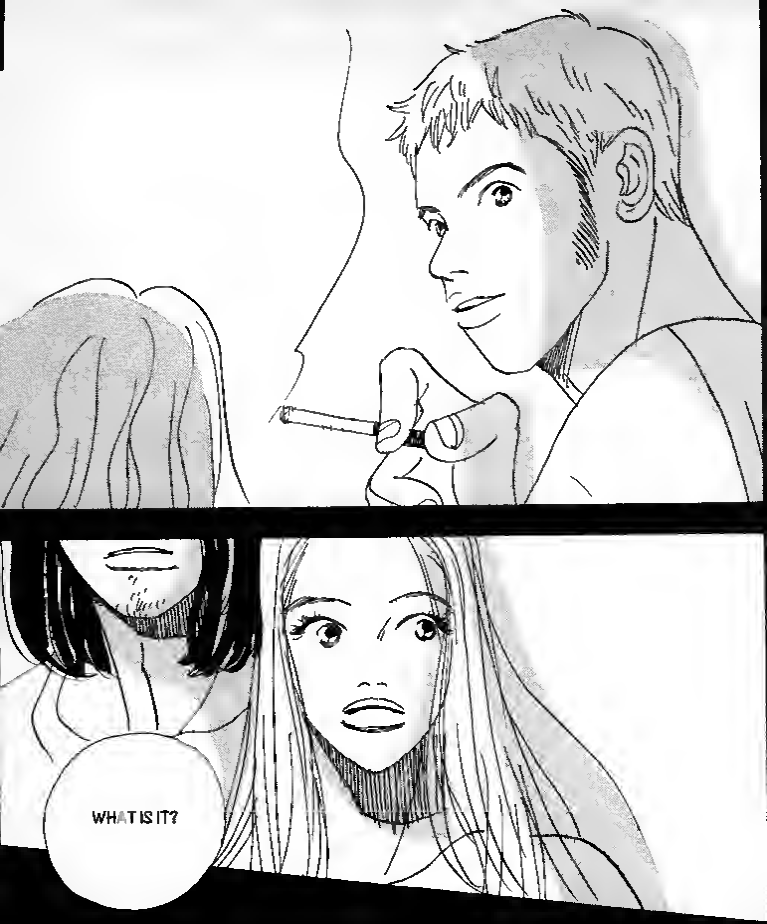

NO, I DON'T.
I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU THAT.
WE'RE SO OVER.

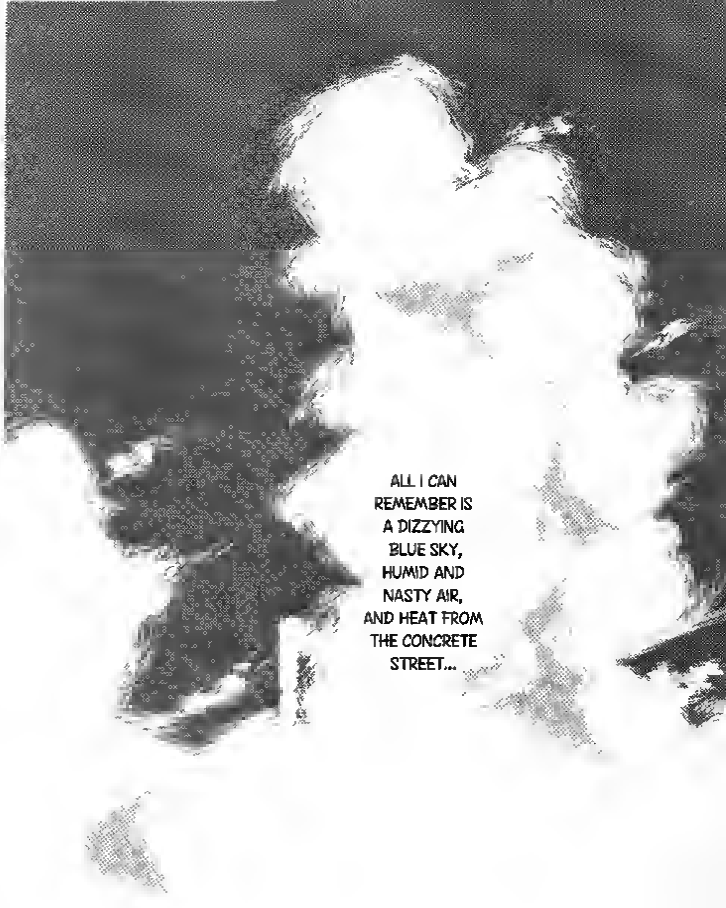

I DON'T THINK WE'RE GONNA SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
CHIZU...
GOODBYE.

GOODBYE,
TAKU.

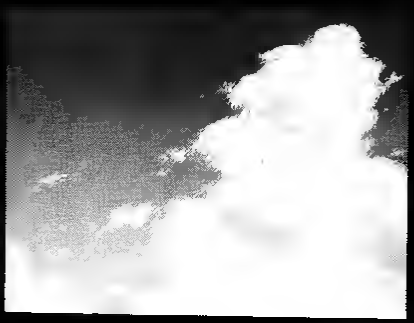

THE RAINY SEASON WILL BE OVER SOON.
I FOUND A NEW LOVE.
ANOTHER SUMMER HAS COME.
WE SHOULD GO SOMEWHERE, LIKE TO THE BEACH.
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.


STOP IT, TAKU.


WHAT IS IT?
THAT SUMMER...


ALL I CAN REMEMBER IS A DIZZYING BLUE SKY, HUMID AND NASTY AIR, AND HEAT FROM THE CONCRETE STREET...

THEN...
OUR BODY
TEMPERATURES
RISING AS WE HELD
EACH OTHER.
IT'S...
...NOTHING.



THE FIRST AND
LAST SPECIAL
SUMMER FOR
ME AND TAKU.

END